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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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INSIDE



Toy Drive

Hundreds of disadvantaged children in the CNMI will celebrate the holiday season with a smile.

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Deadly Fire

A fire sweeps through a budget hotel in the Philippines, killing 15 people.

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Hawaii senator drums up support for CNMI's shark finning ban bill. **PAGE 2**
Faisao found liable to pay for NMPASI's lawsuit costs. **PAGE 3**

Immigration visas for investors pushed

» **Chamber wants extension beyond 2014**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial welcomes the release of the long-awaited final E-2 CNMI investor rule but said he wants more focus on allowing foreign investors to obtain a "green card" if they actively invest in the CNMI and employ at least 10 U.S. citizens.

Fitial is referring to the federal EB-5 visa program.

The EB-5 visa program generally requires aliens to invest \$1 million in a new commercial enterprise that will directly create at least 10 fulltime jobs.

Fitial said investors need not invest the

full \$1 million, but only \$500,000 in the CNMI.

"It will provide this opportunity for foreign investors to come in, apply for green card, and at the same time all of

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DESPITE MERGER COLLAPSE

Fitial going back to GOP as an individual

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Despite the CNMI Republican Party's rejection on Friday of a proposed merger with the Covenant Party, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday he will still go back to his old party.

Fitial, a former Republican, formed the Covenant Party in 2001 for his first

gubernatorial bid that did not succeed. He won as governor in 2005 and got re-elected in 2009.

"I was the one who made the Republican Party very strong. Now that I have already accomplished my mission in becoming a governor under the new Covenant Party, it's time for me to go back and take care of my party," Fi-

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\$28M housing project breaks ground



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Commonwealth officials led by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, and Triple J Saipan owner and Sandy Beach Homes executive Bob Jones, second from right, break ground for the \$28.2 million Sandy Beach Homes Affordable Housing Project yesterday morning in Chalan Kanoa.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Foundation work and construction of the \$28.2 million Sandy Beach Homes Affordable Housing Project officially began after project owners and government officials broke ground yesterday morning in Chalan Kanoa.

Sandy Beach Homes Affordable Housing Project aims to develop affordable housing units near Laly 4 Beach.

The multi-million project will consist of 60 three-bedroom, two-bathroom units measuring 1,400 sq. ft. each on the six-floor buildings, with above ground level parking. Project plan also features energy-efficient design and materials,

including a solar water heater.

It is owned by Sandy Beach Homes LLC, a new business entity established in June through the collaboration of Triple J Saipan Inc. and Ironwood Housing Partners Saipan LLC.

Triple J corporate auditor Michael S. Sablan said Sandy Beach

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'Father Manny' passes away, 65

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rev. Fr. Manuel Reyes Corcuera, the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, passed away on Sunday in Manila, the Philippines, due to lung cancer. He was 65.

His passing came as a shock to the community he served for 23 years.

Corcuera, who was affectionately called "Father Manny," lived on Saipan for 23 years, starting on Feb. 7, 1987.

He had since served the CNMI in various capacities in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

Pope Benedict XVI appointed Father Manny as the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa on April 6, 2010, the same day that the pope accepted the resignation of Bishop Tomas A. Camacho.

"The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa is

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Corcuera



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Local

Hawaii senator drums up support for CNMI's shark finning ban bill



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Hawaiian State Senator Clayton Hee, right, the author of the bill that became the strongest anti-shark finning law in the nation, addresses CNMI lawmakers on the need to pass a similar bill pending in the CNMI Legislature, while WildAid shark campaign project manager Stefanie Brendl looks on, in the House chamber on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Hawaiian State Senator Clayton Hee, the author of the bill that became the strongest anti-shark finning law in the nation, is drumming up support for a similar CNMI House bill pending at the Senate.

Hee and WildAid shark campaign project manager Stefanie Brendl met with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday afternoon to push for the enactment into law of CNMI House minority leader Diego Benavente's (R-Saipan) House Bill 17-94, which bans the sale and distribution of shark fins in the CNMI.

They also met with local lawmakers led by Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and

House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the governor, during his meeting with Hee and Brendl, indicated his "full support for the shark finning ban in the CNMI and is awaiting final action in the Legislature before the bill is transmitted to the Executive Branch for action."

Hee said Benavente's HB 17-94 could be one of the most important legislation to protect not only sharks but also the marine environment.

Benavente's bill is modeled upon Hee's bill that became law in Hawaii on May 28 this year.

Shark finning is the commercial fishing practice of landing a shark caught by hook or net

and cutting off its fins. The rest of the shark is then thrown back into the ocean as trash. Many times the shark is still alive and tries to swim away after being thrown back in, but it is doomed to drown without fins.

Hee's Bill 2169 made it illegal to possess, sell, or barter shark fins in Hawaii. Advocates said the simple, three-page bill not only closed the loophole in Hawaiian shark fishing, but also removed the demand for shark fin soup in Hawaii.

"The goal, ultimately, is to stop the sale of shark fins internationally. But like any journey, it's one step at a time. The Hawaii law was the first step. Palau creating a shark sanctuary is a second step. The legislation here is the third step so ultimately it's my belief that as Pacific islanders, those steps will continue if given the opportunity to succeed," Hee said in an interview yesterday.

Benavente's HB 17-94 passed the House on Nov. 17. The Senate also passed the bill in a substitute form.

However, Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-

Tinian) asked that the Senate-substituted bill be recalled to address additional concerns on the measure.

The amendment clarifies the intent to exempt possession of shark for non-commercial or subsistence purposes.

Hofschneider, in an interview, said he himself was surprised by the impact of the bill not only in the CNMI but also in other parts of the world. He said the bill has also sparked strong interest from international conservation groups.

Hee said he is aware of the need to amend the bill.

"On the other hand, some of the legislators have indicated some concerns about local consumption. And I have been around long enough to understand that politics is the art of the possible. So we're trying to make it possible to amend the bill so that local consumption is also (permitted)," he said.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) may call for a Senate session next week to act on this bill.

Benavente said he supports any amendment that will help in advancing the bill's goal of protecting sharks from finning, while at the same time also taking into consideration the right of local people to catch shark for their own consumption.

He also calls on his colleagues in the House to set aside their differences to pass this important legislation.

Hee visited Saipan yesterday particularly to share his thoughts on and push for the passage of Benavente's pending bill.

Shark finning is principally responsible for the decline in shark populations worldwide. Between 80 and 100 million sharks are killed each year, which has reduced overall shark populations by an estimated 90 percent.

And because shark fin soup yields high profits, the shark fin industry keeps pressure on legislators to refrain from passing and enforcing anti-finning laws.

Once Benavente's bill is signed into law, it will also stop the shark fin soup trade in the CNMI.

Hotel staff allegedly steals spare tires

Police arrested in San Antonio Friday a hotel employee who allegedly stole four Toyota FJ Cruiser spare tires.

Patrick C. Aldan, 18, now faces theft charges. Bail was set at \$250 cash and \$2,250 unsecured bond.

Detective Flora Aguon stated in her report that on March 29, 2010, Ka Yee Siu reported to the Department of Public Safety that the spare tire mounted on the trunk door of his Toyota FJ Cruiser was missing.

Aguon said that on Nov. 20, 2010, they obtained information that Aldan wanted to turn over the FJ Cruiser sets to the police. Aguon said they set up an interview with Aldan, but he never

showed up.

The detective said that on that same day, she and other detectives went to a hotel in San Antonio where Aldan works. Aguon said that Aldan consented to a search of his Toyota 4 Runner.

Aguon said they brought Aldan's car to Microl Corp. to check the spare tires. A Microl Corp. staff confirmed that the four wheel sets on Aldan's vehicle are indeed spare tires for FJ Cruisers, she said.

In an interview on Nov. 30, 2010, Aldan confessed to a detective that he stole the four FJ Cruiser spare tires, Aguon said.

The total value of the four spare tires is \$3,459.92, police learned. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
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The holiday season marks the beginning of three months of peak visitor arrivals for the Northern Mariana Islands and the perfect opportunity for residents to share the **Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit** with visitors.

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Faisao found liable to pay for NMPASI's lawsuit costs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court has found Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao liable to pay for all the costs the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. incurred to sue him.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Fremming Nielsen ordered NMPASI to file a bill of costs.

Nielsen denied Faisao's motion to dismiss the lawsuit. He also denied as moot NMPASI's motion for preliminary injunction.

NMPASI sued Faisao after the Juvenile Detention Unit in Kagman allegedly denied it access to the facility. NMPASI has alleged that it has one client at the JDU that has asked for NMPASI's services.

Faisao, through the OAG, had asked the court to dismiss

the complaint, saying the JDU does not keep any individuals with developmental disabilities and with mental illnesses and has not done so during his tenure as DCCA secretary.

NMPASI, however, filed last week an amended complaint that included a list of juveniles with disabilities at the JDU.

During Thursday's hearing, Faisao submitted a letter granting NMPASI access to the Juvenile Detention Unit.

Nielsen interpreted Faisao's letter to be a concession that NMPASI is entitled to enter the JDU facility.

Nielsen said he would draft an order detailing the terms.

In his written order issued Friday, Nielsen said that Faisao's letter, while a heartening show of goodwill, does not have the effect of law and could be withdrawn or ignored the moment the lawsuit is dismissed.

"If the letter is ignored, the

same injury would be repeated," the judge said.

In order to ensure that Faisao remains compliant with the statutory framework intended to protect disabled children held in custody at the Juvenile Detention Unit, Nielsen said the court orders some requirements to be followed.

"If at any point the parties feel that provisions of this order have not been complied with, they may seek a status with this

court," the judge said.

Nielsen ordered that NMPASI be provided two types of access to the Juvenile Detention Unit: investigations and educational/training.

He said investigations relate to allegations of abuse and neglect if reported to NMPASI.

"This access includes access to all residents of JDU as well as records relating to those residents determined to have a mental illness or developmental disability and other disabilities," the judge said.

Fund uncovers unremitted employee contributions for PSS personnel

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund said a number of Public School System personnel have been found deficient by \$306,000 in their employee contribution as of November 2010.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez disclosed this anomaly to the board of trustees on Friday, describing the situation as a serious concern that must be rectified.

He said PSS was the only agency found to have such a "problem" and that negotiations are ongoing to address the matter.

"It looks like there is unremitted employee contribution for some PSS personnel and this is a huge concern. The system is now aware of the situation and we pointed out the need for them to pay for this obligation," said Villagomez Friday.

In an interview with PSS finance director Richard Waldo yesterday, he said that PSS only has \$152,000 in outstanding unpaid employee contributions as of yesterday. He cited the government's cash-flow problem as the main reason for the deficiency.

"\$150,000 is still due the Fund for employee contributions and not \$306,000 as claimed. PSS made some payments and we're anticipating checks will come in to pay for the full obligation, hopefully within the week," Waldo told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"We're going to pay our obligation, including what is due to the Fund. This happened because of the cash-flow problem of the government which prioritizes the payroll for employees and then work on the other obligations next," he added.

Waldo assured that employees of PSS have no reason to worry about this "unremitted" amount because it is being taken care of.

PSS earlier disclosed that about \$900,000 of its "all others" for fiscal year 2010 has yet to be remitted by the central government. Waldo said yesterday that, despite this delay, PSS expects no shortfall in fiscal year 2010, which ended last Sept. 30.

He assured that the \$900,000 will be received in January in time for the government's collection of revenues for the first quarter of the year.

In an interview with Fund chair Sixto Igisomar, he expressed confidence that PSS will fulfill its obligation, both to its employees and the Fund.

"I am sure they will pay..."

and PSS has been very responsible. Like other agencies in the government, they have some glitches but they will fulfill the obligation," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Unlike employer contribution to the Fund, board members explained that employee contributions are being deducted from personnel paychecks.

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Fitial 'not necessarily agreeing' with OPA on AG report

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Without disclosing the contents of the Office of the Public Auditor's report on Attorney General Ed Buckingham related to a hosting of a delegate candidate, Gov. Benigno R. Fitia said yesterday he doesn't necessarily agree with OPA.

"I just got back. I have to review it first. But let me just say this. I do not necessarily agree with OPA. I think this thing has gone a little overboard. I think, you know, politics is imminent but I always believe that two wrongs will never make one right," the governor said in an interview at the Sandy Beach Homes groundbreaking in Chalan Kanoa.

lan Kanoa.

Former representative Tina Sablan, who has been an advocate of transparency and accountability in government, said it would be best for the Fitia administration and the Office of the Attorney General to disclose the OPA ethics report on Buckingham.

Concerned citizens, who filed formal complaints with OPA, said Buckingham violated ethics and election statutes for hosting a delegate candidate gathering at the governor's private residence in Gualo Rai on Aug. 28.

Fitia has 30 days to respond in writing to the OPA report, which was addressed to the governor, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Buckingham.

The governor said he will review the

OPA report and recommendations first before commenting further on the matter. Fitia just got back early yesterday morning from Palau where he attended the Dec. 15 to 17 Micronesia Chief Executives Summit.

Sablan said Fitia and the OAG should disclose the report and allow for public review.

"The public auditor has already indicated that they are free to release it," the former lawmaker said.

Sablan said the investigation of the attorney general's conduct is a subject of great public interest, "and to fail to disclose the report only fosters speculation and worst-case assumptions, and further undermines public confidence in the integrity of both the Attorney

General's Office, as well as the Governor's Office."

"We are, after all, talking about the conduct of the chief law enforcement attorney of the land. We must be able to have confidence in his ability to up-

hold the law, and to be forthright and accept the consequences of his actions if he has not done so. We cannot have confidence in the attorney general, or the governor for that matter, if we do not know the truth," she said.

Buckingham is currently off island for vacation, and won't be back until January 2011.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Fitia told reporters in an interview at the Sandy Beach Homes groundbreaking in Chalan Kanoa yesterday.

The governor said he has the freedom to go back to his old party.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), when asked for comment yesterday, said the governor has to comply with the CNMI Republican Party bylaws.

"Unless the general membership declares I am a persona non grata to the Republican Party and therefore I should not be accepted back to my party. That is very very unlikely to happen," Fitia said.

Fitia, who greeted Republican National Committee chair Michael Steele at the Saipan International Airport in September, said when he goes back to the GOP, he wants to "make sure that the Republican Party is for the people and not for certain family." He did not name names.

"You know why those people are speaking against me, against the merger? Because they're afraid of Governor Fitia stopping them from enriching themselves through politics," Fitia added.

The governor also said "we have a lot of Republicans who are only Republicans for convenience."

"When it's not good for them they will not support the party. So when it's good for them, they support the party. So I want to make sure that those kinds of Republicans will not exist when I go back to the Republican Party," he said.

But some Republicans said yesterday the same could also be said of Fitia, who abandoned the Republican Party to form his Covenant Party.

CNMI Republican Party chair Juan I. Tenorio confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* on Sunday that party officials decided not to approve the merger with Fitia's Covenant Party.

"Unfortunately, the leadership of the CNMI Republican Party is not ready for a merger," he said.

The Republicans also canceled today's general membership meeting, supposedly to elect one of three who will represent the CNMI in the RNC chair election in January 2011. But the officials decided to retain the three representatives: Tenorio, "Bo" Palacios and Marylou Ada.

Republicans said the governor may have recognized the need to develop closer relationships with members of Congress but cannot do so solidly because he is not affiliated with a nationally "recognized" political party, either Democrat or Republican.

The CNMI Republican Party is the only party in the CNMI that is recognized nationally.

\$28M

From Page 1

Homes is the first affordable housing project since the '80s and the Fina Sisu Housing Project behind the Northern Marianas College.

"Since then, no major private developer [has] come forward to build homes for low-income families," said Sablan.

Sablan said the concept for the project was founded on a market study conducted by Novogradac & Company, which showed a large demand for larger housing units on island.

According to Sablan, Sandy Beach Homes is also CNMI's first venture in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program under the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Joshua Sasamoto, corporate director for the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., said LIHTC is the largest and most affordable housing program

available to encourage developers to build affordable rental housing for low-income households in the U.S. and its territories.

Sasamoto said the Commonwealth's initial entry into the "exceedingly complex" LIHTC program would spur economic activity on Saipan.

In his remarks, Gov. Benigno R. Fitia said the housing project is unprecedented for the Commonwealth and manifests Triple J Saipan and IHP Saipan's commitment to the islands.

"For over 30 years, Triple J has made overwhelming contributions to the Northern Mariana Islands. This latest collaboration with IHP Saipan is yet another testament to the company's dedicated service to the government and the residents of our Commonwealth," he said.

Fitia commended NMHC for having implemented the LIHTC program, which he described as highly technical and complex.

"The joint efforts involved with get-

ting this program implemented in the CNMI should be viewed as a shining example of positive results that can be achieved when the government fosters a working partnership with the private sector," he said.

The governor added that the groundbreaking is timely for the holiday season as Sandy Beach Homes furthers the spirit of giving and sharing.

"It's about addressing the housing needs of low income families and ensuring that parents and children have an affordable access to a decent place to call home. It's about giving hope back to those who have stopped believing that hope does exist," he added.

Triple J Saipan owner and Sandy Beach Homes executive Bob Jones thanked the support of government agencies that made the project possible.

He extended his appreciation to the rest of the project team, including Black Construction Co., which has been chosen to take charge of the construction phase of the housing venture.

DIOCESE

From Page 1

thankful for the many years of service that Father Manny brought the ministry of Christ to parishes and families in the Commonwealth. With his passing, the clergy and the faithful join the family of the late Father Manny in prayer," the diocese said in a statement yesterday afternoon.

Father Manny just turned 65 on Dec. 13. He also recently celebrated his 40th anniversary to the priesthood, on Nov. 8.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitia, in an interview after the Sandy Beach Homes groundbreaking, said he was saddened to hear the news of Father Manny's passing and extended his condolences to the family.

The governor said Father Manny would always give him sandals. He said the thing he would miss most about the late priest was his advice.

"His advice? Always do the right thing," Fitia said.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, whose wife Laling is the executive secretary to the bishop, said he's "shocked" to learn of Father Manny's passing.

"It's a sad day for the CNMI. We lost a very important person. My wife and I, and I am sure the whole community he served, will miss him," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa said Father Manny passed away on Dec. 19 at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City, Philippines.

"As was his wish, the remains of Father Manny will be brought to his hometown in Sorsogon, Philippines," the diocese said. He will be laid to rest at a family plot at the Sorsogon Catholic Cemetery.

Father Manny passed away a few minutes after his biological brother, Rev. Fr. Atilano Corcuera, administered the final rites.

Father Manny was born on Dec. 13, 1945, in Marinduque, Philippines. He was ordained along with more than 70 others on Nov. 8, 1970, when Pope Paul VI first visited the Philippines.

Saipan had become his home for 23 years. On Oct. 5, 2010, Father Manny left Saipan for medical assistance in the Philippines. He was diagnosed with non-small cell lung carcinoma after a series of tests.

He remained in the Philippines to initiate chemotherapy and complete a wellness plan.

"The treatments, unfortunately, did not proceed to completion due to Father Manny's weakened condition from enduring an aggressive cancer," the diocese said.

The diocese thanked the medical teams in the CNMI and the Philippines who assisted Father Manny during his illness, the clergy who accompanied him in his journey as a priest, and "all the followers of Christ in and out of the Commonwealth whose prayers and generosity have and continue to greatly reflect this season of giving."

Masses

A Memorial Mass at Sacred Heart Parish in Kamuning, Quezon City in the

Philippines will be held on Dec. 26.

Father Manny's remains will then be brought to Sorsogon, Philippines, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Dec. 29, 2010.

Rev. Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez will attend all services on behalf of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

The Diocese, in addition to its preparation for celebration of the Birth of Christ in the Season of Advent, will observe the Rosary for the Dead, traditionally held for nine days.

In all parishes on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, a daily Rosary will be recited 30 minutes before the scheduled "Aguinatdo" or Simbang Gabi Masses. The Diocese said Father Manny will be mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer at all Masses beginning Dec. 20.

On Christmas Eve, all parishes will also observe the Rosary 30 minutes prior to each parish scheduled Mass. On Christmas Day and on Dec. 26, each parish will recite the Rosary prior to one of any of its Masses.

The final day of the Diocesan Rosary is on Dec. 27. All parishioners are invited to join the Rosary at 6pm immediately followed by a Memorial Mass at Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa. There will be no 6pm Masses in other parishes on this day, and all clergy will be in attendance at this liturgical celebration.

"In lieu of flowers, the Diocese requests for monetary contribution, made payable to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa. All proceeds will help defray the cost of Father Manny's medical and funeral expenses," the diocese said.

VISAS

From Page 1

these investors are required to put up an active investment. And in that active investment, each investor is also required to hire at least 10 U.S. citizens," he said, adding that if at least 100 applicants apply, then it will generate at least 1,000 jobs for U.S. citizens.

He said he has been talking to a lot of these investors as recent as two weeks ago.

"And these people are serious because the bottom line, they want green card. Because as soon as they have green card for two years and they continue to qualify under the criteria or active investment, then they will be given U.S. citizenship," he added.

The EB-5 visa is different from the E-2 CNMI investor status that allows eligible foreign long-term investors with at least \$50,000 investment to remain in the CNMI through Dec. 31, 2014.

"All I'm doing now is having a regional center to be established here in the Commonwealth because having a regional center in the commonwealth will reduce the \$1 million requirement for each investor to only half a million," he added.

The governor said he also plans to meet with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano in early 2011, to ask her to allow the CNMI to continue implementing its labor and immigration laws and regulations until DHS comes up with a final rule on the transitional worker program.

Chamber of Commerce

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce,

the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, separately said it is "pleased" that DHS acceded to their request to provide a safety net for the hundreds of CNMI foreign investors who would not have qualified for the E-2 CNMI investor status under the previously-proposed \$150,000 minimum investment threshold.

But the Chamber said it is unfortunate that DHS did not agree with its other requests.

"This is particularly true of our request that E-2 CNMI Investor status be allowed to extend beyond Dec. 31, 2014 for those investors granted such status. We continue to believe that the CNRA allows for E-2 CNMI Investor status to survive beyond the end of the initial transition period," said Chamber executive director Kyle Calabrese.

Calabrese said the U.S. Government Accountability Office has agreed with this position, stating: "Although the status can be awarded only during the transition period, the [CNRA] imposes no limit on the grandfathered status' length of validity. If and when the grandfathered status expires, and for new CNMI foreign investors, DHS will adjudicate applications under the regular treaty investor status and under the other immigrant or nonimmigrant categories generally available under U.S. immigration law."

The final investor rule will be posted in the Federal Register on Dec. 20 in Washington, D.C. (today on Saipan).

Fitia said he also looks forward to the DHS release of the transitional worker regulations.

Ex-convict is arrested again for alleged burglary

An ex-convict who was just sentenced in the mid-part of this year for burglarizing the house of a retired doctor was arrested again Friday night in Kagman II for allegedly burglarizing another house.

Arthur Thomas Ramangmau Rauepi, 22, was brought to the Superior Court yesterday on charges of burglary, theft, criminal mis-

chief, and contempt of court.

Bail was set at \$10,000 cash. Preliminary hearing is on Dec. 28, 2010, at 1:30pm. The Office of Public Defender was appointed to represent Rauepi.

Detective Jeffrey Norita stated in his report that Leslieann E. Sablan of Kagman II reported on Nov. 25, 2010, that she had been robbed.

Norita said preliminary investigation showed that Sablan had left the house with her family at 9am that day. When they returned home that evening, Sablan found some of her personal items scattered on the floor.

Norita said their investigation showed that the suspect/s managed to enter the house by pushing the air-conditioning unit in

the storage room inward.

Items stolen were a white gold ring with 2.5 carat diamond, two sets of white gold earrings, a baseball cap with a big letter F design, several sets of keys, and a "Krazer" mobile cellular phone with a "RACER-X" red sticker on its back.

On Dec. 8, 2010, two police officers interviewed Rauepi's

15-year-old girlfriend.

Based on the interview, Norita said, the officers learned that the suspect gave his girlfriend a "Krazer" cellular phone with "RACER-X" sticker on it and \$35 cash. The girlfriend said her boyfriend claimed he traded the phone with someone else.

Norita said he interviewed Rauepi on Dec. 10, 2010, dur-

ing which the suspect confessed to burglarizing a residence on Nov. 25, 2010, and stealing several items.

Sablan identified the recovered baseball cap and cellphone as among the items stolen from her house.

Rauepi pleaded guilty in June this year to a felony theft. He was sentenced to five years in prison, all suspended except for four months, with credit for the four months he had already served in jail. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Sablan will meet constituents at the Thursday Street Market

Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan will be sharing holiday greetings with constituents at the Garapan Street Market on the Paseo de Marianas this Thursday, Dec. 23, from 5:30pm to 7pm.

"It's important to see as many people as I can when I am here at home," Sablan said. "It is important to hear what people are thinking. And I want to let constituents know what is happening in Congress and about the work their congressional office is doing for them."

Co-owner of former remittance center indicted

The U.S. government has indicted the co-owner of a former remittance center for his role in the alleged conspiracy to defraud a Philippine bank of approximately \$109,855.

The indictment charged Haydn L. Villegas with conspiracy. The U.S. government also sought to seize any property that Villegas may have derived from his alleged crimes.

The indictment was filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday. It is not clear yet whether Haydn Villegas was already arrested as of yesterday.

According to the indictment, the scheme to defraud began in November 2004 when Hadyn Villegas and Ana Maria V. Villegas, then co-owners of Philippine Express Remittance, started pass-

Sablan is home in the Northern Marianas for a few days, before he returns to Washington for the swearing-in of the 112th U.S. Congress.

The congressman made it a point in his first term in office to find new ways to communicate with constituents in the NMI.

"In my first two years I started regular town hall meetings on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, and opened offices on all three islands. I am available for one-on-one meetings at the congressional

offices here and in Washington.

"But it's important to talk with people informally, too. The Thursday night market in the Paseo, the Sabalu market in Susupe, and the Tuesday market at the Garapan fishing basin are

great places to see a lot of people and have a casual chat. I will be continuing all of these ways of keeping in touch with constituents and listening to their concerns now that my second term of office is about to begin."

Sablan also publishes a weekly e-newsletter and has mailed out several printed updates on his work for constituents in the NMI.

"Not everyone has access to the e-newsletter. Not everyone has time to visit their congres-

sional office because of work or school," Sablan said. "So it's important that I go where the people are."

For more information constituents can call the Saipan District Office at 323-2647, the Rota District Office at 532-2647, or the Tinian District Office at 433-2647. *(PR)*

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Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipattamenton I Tano' Publiku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSIONS FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extensions of leases on certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These lease extensions are subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The leased premises are described as public land Lot Nos. 057 E 09, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, and 057 E 10, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, both situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The lessee is South Pacific Lumber Company, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are James C. Whang and Charles C. Whang.

The President/Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation is James C. Whang. The Vice President is Charles C. Whang.
- iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. James C. Whang.
- iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating warehouses, office spaces and show rooms.

The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.
- v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 24, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN INEKSTENDEN INATKILON TANO' PUBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Publiku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano' Publiku guini ha ná'i notisia ni intesion-ña para u rekomenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na táno' publiku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Este na inekstenden atkilon siha manmasuheto para i inapreban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas gi sigun ni mamánda ni mapega huyong gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha háyi na petsona siha gi halom i publiku henerát siña ha na'hålom i infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon táno' publiku. Sigi más mo' na mapribeniya ginen i Lain Publiku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesen infotmasion ni madimánda ni debi na u mapublika.

- i. I lugát atkilon siha madeskribe komu tano' publiku Lot Nos. 057 E 09, kinonsiste árian kási guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus más, yan 057 E10, kinonsiste ária kási guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus más, parehu gaige gi Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugát gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano' Publiku siha ni para i rikonosimientio.
- ii. I manatikikila i Kompanian i South Pacific Lumber, i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpon i Direktot i Corporation siha si James C. Whang yan si Charles C. Whang.

I Presidente/sekritário/Tresureron i Corporation si James C. Whang. I Segundo na Presidente si Charles C. Whang.
- iii. I mapropone na ekstension atkilon manegosio gi as Siñot James C. Whang.
- iv. I manatikikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugát siha uniku para i rason i maneran warehouses, kâmpon ofisina siha yan show rooms.

I teman i kontrátan atkilon ha ekstende gi 15 años.

I mapropone na atkilon sákkkan duránten i tema sigun i percentage gi bálen i fair market value gi propiadát siha.
- v. Kopian i manmapropone na ekstension atkilon na kontráta siha siña machule' gi ofisinan i Dipattamenton Tano' Publiku siha, gaige i segundo bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Songsong, Luta; pat i primet 1st floor gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. I Dipattamenton Tano' Publiku siha táya' ha risibi tinahguen propositu siha para suheton atkilon táno' publiku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. I Sekritáron i Dipattamenton Tano' Publiku siha debi na u akseptá i tinige' i infotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat ántes di Disembre 24, 2010 gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano' Publiku siha ni gaige Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekki atotoowow ammatáf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Kkapasal akkilon ye e sobwosobw nge ebwe alughulugh mereel Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature sangi Article XI, Tálil 5(c) mellól Allegh Lapalap Commonwealth Teel faluw kka faluwasch Efang Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiighiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoorá, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekki bwáári Lot No. 057 E 09, eyoor eluww sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3, 245 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, me 057 E 10, eyoor eluww sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3,245 square meters) elap me ngare eghus, elo Lower Base, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiiy.
- ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge South Pacific Lumber Company, CNMI corporation. Schóóy Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellól corporation nge James C. Whang me Charles C. Whang..

Samwoolul/Treasurer/Sekretorial corporation nge James C. Whang. Aruscheyil samwool nge Charles Whang.
- iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. James C. Whang..
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááli bwuley reel ammwelil warehouse (sokko), office spaces (leliyal bwulasiyo) me leliyal akkate (show rooms)..

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years).

Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sáangi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú mellol bwuley yeel.
- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songson, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchélúyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipél..
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal December 24, 2010 (Tumwur) mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchélúyól.

DESPITE AILING ECONOMY

Saipan seaport posts slight growth in revenue tonnage

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the economic slump, the Port of Saipan posted a 5.2-percent hike in revenue tons within the last 12-month period, according to manager/harbor master MaryAnn Q. Lizama.

The Port of Saipan also saw a slight 5.2 percent increase in revenue tons in fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

In fiscal year 2009, it recorded 338,880.479 in total tons. This went up slightly to 356,624.096 revenue tons in fiscal year 2010.

Lizama, however, pointed out major decreases in other areas.

“Though the increase is evident, the major decrease we had between the two fiscal years are the outbound revenue tons and the cement throughput revenue tons,” she said.

The outbound revenue tons in fiscal year 2010 (16,585.638)

show an 18.9 percent decrease compared to that of fiscal year 2009, which had 20,454.549.

The outbound revenue tons refer to cargoes that exit the Port of Saipan.

The other decrease—the cement throughput revenue tons—was at 3,852.870 in fiscal year 2010 compared to 2009’s record of 6,354.285 revenue tons.

Lizama said the 39 percent decrease was attributed to the new cement pipeline that was built from the receiving end at the pier to the cement silo.

“This project took almost three months to complete, hence the decrease in cement throughput in revenue tons,” she added.

The following are the total revenue tons recorded for each month in fiscal year 2010:

- October 2009: 33,540.718
- November 2009: 30,306.470
- December 2009: 31,415.684
- January: 27,206.880

- February: 27,880.672
- March: 27,925.846
- April: 28,776.223
- May: 29,401.099
- June: 29,713.905
- July: 29,955.290
- August: 25,306.045
- September: 35,195.264

Lizama said the Port of Saipan continues to adhere to the bond indenture requirements as it is their primary responsibility and will continue to do so.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero earlier disclosed that compared to the airport division, the seaports facilities were in full compliance with the rate covenant throughout fiscal year 2010.

During the first quarter, its rate was at 1.49 percent of their required net revenue; 1.46 percent in the second quarter; 1.38 percent in the third quarter; and at 1.50 percent of required revenues during the fourth quarter.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Cadets and officers of the Tinian Stallion Battalion JROTC clean up at the Tinian San Jose Church on Dec. 4, 2010, from 8am to 12pm. This was the battalion’s first community service for this school year. All the cadets had fun helping out the community church prepare for the holidays.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fund to look for new money managers, considers reallocation of its investment

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund will soon issue a request for proposal for new money managers to handle the agency’s investment portfolio, which it wants to reshuffle beginning April 2011.

In a meeting on Friday, Fund administrator Richard Villagomez reported that its investment consultant—Wilshire Consulting—had recommended the issuance of RFPs next month.

Wilshire replaced Merrill Lynch as the Fund’s investment consultant; its contract started in October last year.

Following Wilshire Consulting’s selection, the board of trustees voted to use a moderate-alternative approach in dealing with the Fund’s investment in order to recoup the losses it incurred in previous years.

“Regarding the complete transition to the new allocation plan, we’re targeting the full

implementation in April next year,” said Villagomez, adding that requests for proposals must satisfy the new allocation policy the board voted on.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Fund liquidated some of its investments after the “unsatisfying performance” of its previous money managers.

The decision to add or cut the number of money managers lies with Wilshire’s recommendation.

The board was presented with three options on how it could divvy up its investment portfolio, now amounting to \$311 million: using a conservative-alternative approach, a moderate-alternative approach, or aggressive-alternative approach.

The board chose the moderate-alternative option. Fund officials said this approach involves “more gutsy” efforts in order to obtain a higher return but with a little bit of risk. They described it as “safe” for the Fund.

The Fund’s investment portfolio is currently divided among common stocks, which account for 65 percent; fixed income, 27 percent; hedge fund, 6 percent; and money market, 2 percent.

The Fund is now finalizing an assets liability study to show the Fund’s projected actuarial liability versus actual portfolio and a projection of the Fund’s assets through 2028.

For the Fund to be fully funded by 2045, it needs about \$860 million in its investment fund. The current \$311 million is only about 40 percent of the needed amount.

Saipan Tribune learned that fiscal year 2008 was the worst year on record for the market and, like other retirement and pension plans, the Fund sustained considerable losses.

In 2001, the Fund also experienced about a 20-percent drop in its investment assets and 10 percent during the Asian crisis in 1990s.

Toy drive nets truckloads of toys for disadvantaged kids

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of disadvantaged children in the CNMI will celebrate the holiday season with a smile as they will be receiving different kinds of toys collected through the 2010 CNMI Christmas Toy Drive.

Representatives of corporate sponsors that participated in this year's Christmas toy drive handed over the assorted toys, mostly for children ages 0 to 9 years, to Karidat volunteers and staff yesterday morning.

Ed Propst, marketing and media consultant for Pacific

Digital Media, said that truckloads of toys were collected from all drop-off locations and delivered to the Karidat office in Chalan Kanoa.

Drop-off sites for the toy drive were Lollipops, IT&E, and Marianas Health Services, which spearheaded this year's toy drive.

Despite not meeting the target goal of 1,000 toys, Propst still considers the campaign a success as it brought the whole community together for a noble cause.

"We had a lot of people that worked hard for this toy drive. There's so many kind people

on this island. We have a great community and we're very fortunate," he said. "These are very difficult times and we still got a great deal of brand new and high quality toys. We're very thankful and grateful to all generous donors and sponsors."

According to Propst, he and Marianas Health Services administrator George Cruz took the initiative to carry on the toy drive program left by Wells Fargo when the financing institution closed down in September.

"We knew we have to step up to the plate after we found out that Karidat might not have toys for the children with the closing

of Wells Fargo," he said.

Corporate sponsors were Marianas Health Services, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Tan Holdings, Rotary Club of Saipan, IT&E, Lollipops, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Toothworks.

Through the toy drive, Propst said they will be able to convey a positive message to all the children in the community.

"In spite of difficult times, never give up hope. Just maintain faith that things are going to get better. We have to believe and continue to hope," he said.

Propst vowed that next year's toy drive will be bigger and better. "This is the first toy drive

that we've organized and we learned a lot of things. We'll work hard and start as early as September," he added.

Propst said they were still getting calls from people who wish to donate toys for the children of Karidat. "We thank them for their kind hearts and they can just bring the toys directly to Karidat," he said.

'God's providence'

In an interview, Karidat executive director Angie Guerrero admitted being worried at first about the Christmas toy drive when Wells Fargo closed its doors in the CNMI.

"But we trust in God's providence. When one door closes, another opens. In this case, a lot of doors opened for us. It's beautiful to see the spirit of sharing in our community," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Guerrero said she was touched by this spirit of sharing among community members despite hard economic times on

the islands. "They do what they can and I'm really glad," she added.

According to Guerrero, the toys will be distributed to children on Saipan, Tinian, and the Northern Islands.

She said the island of Rota is having its own toy drive so they will just coordinate with the Tinian and Northern Islands Mayor's offices to identify how many toys are needed on the islands.

However, Guerrero said their main concern right now is the distribution of toys to the other islands since it will cost them money to send those toys.

Guerrero said she and the Karidat board representative from Tinian will talk to the Tinian legislative delegation to work out the best option to send the toys.

She said she will also get in touch with the Northern Islands Mayor's Office to find out how children on these islands can receive their toys this holiday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Organizers and corporate sponsors hold some of the toys that have been handed to Karidat workers and volunteers yesterday morning. The toys were donated to the 2010 CNMI Christmas Toy Drive that would benefit children this holiday season.

DFS Saipan donates to three groups

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

DFS Saipan Limited brought more holiday cheer to the community with a \$5,000 cash donation to three different organizations last week.

Karidat Social Services and the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition received a check donation of \$2,000, while the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan received \$1,000 on Dec. 16.

DFS president Marian Aldan-Pierce told *Saipan Tribune* that Thursday's donation came from the Christmas fund for the employees.

"What we do is we don't spend the entire Christmas fund and instead give 50 percent of the money to charitable organizations," said Aldan-Pierce yesterday after the groundbreaking ceremony of Sandy Beach Homes in Susupe.

According to Aldan-Pierce, the donations serve as their way of giving back to the community. "We give because we can and we always will," she added.

However, the DFS Saipan president noted that there are still organizations in the CNMI that are in need of help in providing assistance to disadvantaged sectors of the community.

"Hopefully, one of these

days, services like these will no longer be needed," she said.

Karidat executive director Angie Guerrero and Com-

monwealth Diabetes Coalition chair John Oliver Gonzales expressed their appreciation for DFS in separate interviews.

"We're really thankful to DFS because they've really

helped Karidat a lot this year," said Guerrero, adding that DFS has also been donating free drinking water since they opened the organization decades ago.

Gonzales said DFS has been a long-time supporter of the coalition and its various programs. "This valuable contribution will go a long way in bringing awareness, outreach, and client services directly to our people in the taro roots," he added.

According to Gonzales, the donation will be used for the second Diabetes Health Community Forum slated for February 2011 for residents of Capital Hill, Tanapag, Matansa, As Matuis, and Marpi.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Management and staff of DFS Saipan Limited pose with Karidat executive director Angie Guerrero, Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan manager Yuko Kimura, and Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition chair John Oliver Gonzales during the donation last Thursday. DFS made donations amounting to \$5,000 to the three organizations.

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SSHS students take part in poetry slam

On Friday, Dec. 17, Saipan Southern High School English Honor students packed the SSHS Library to participate in a Poetry Slam Workshop facilitated by a talented group from Guam called *Sinangan-ta Youth Movement*.

John "Metaforce" Sarmiento, Alissa Eslavea, and Willa "Mickilla" Wai travel all over the region to conduct workshops and encourage teens to speak out creatively—part of a common desire to help the youth grow as writers, artist, and speakers.

"I was first motivated to start writing poetry when the Spoken Word Poetry introduced words that could change lives, and so that is what I wanted to do with my community," said Sarmiento, the group's outreach coordinator. Through this experience, "it has made me appreciate creativity so much more."

Each member performed their own piece of poetry slam then the students had a mini-workshop called "Fight or Flight."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School English Honor students pack the SSHS Library to participate in a Poetry Slam Workshop on Friday, Dec. 17, 2010.

Several SSHS students, including Roman San Nicolas, Josh Diaz, Leilani Guiao were given an opportunity to present pieces of poetry that they composed in 15 minutes. Students were impressed with the presentations'

self-expression in poetry form.

This year, Saipan Southern High School formed a Free Speakers Club where students with a passion for public speaking come together and have fun with their creativity.

Edward Manibusan, the Free Speakers Club creator and club president, said he expects more student peers to enlist in the club and aims to have more poetry slam events in school. *(Carmen Borja)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC offers Pre-Registration Clearance event

Ongoing Northern Marianas College students who will be enrolling in the spring 2011 semester are encouraged to attend the Pre-Registration Clearance event, which is being held from Dec. 20, 21, or 22 (Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday) in Room D1. Students may stop by anytime from 9am to 3pm.

The purpose of the event is to have students minimize registration delays by clearing any holds (such as an unpaid library fine, missing documents from an application package, unpaid tuition balance, etc.) that may prevent students from registering for the upcoming spring semester.

Spring 2011 class schedules will also be distributed at the Pre-Registration Clearance event. For more information, call 234-5498 ext. 1528/37 or email oar@nmcnet.edu. *(PR)*

John Gonzales LIVE schedule

John Gonzales LIVE will feature SHEFA on Wednesday, Dec. 22. The show will be replayed on Dec. 26 and Dec. 27, all from 7pm to 8pm on KSPN Channel 2. Call 287-4230, text 285-6382, or email johngonzales@pticom.com for question or comment.

The show's topic: SHEFA to unveil new plans for scholarship awards, etc.

Guests include:

1. Joe C. Mafnas – Chairman
2. Maggie C. Camacho - Vice Chairwoman
3. Jose Deleon Guerrero – Member
4. John K. Tenorio – Member
5. Josephine T. Sablan –

Member
6. Henry S. Hofschneider – Administrator *(PR)*

Rakina raffle draw winners

Here are the winners Rakina's fundraising raffle:

- Grand Prize: Ticket no. 712 (no name)
- Baby Grand Prize: Ticket no. 193 (P. Sasamoto)
- 1st Prize: Ticket no. 500 (L. Dean 989-3326)
- 2nd Prize: Ticket no. 528 (no name)
- 3rd Prize: Ticket no. 225 (KJ

- 285-8476)
 - 4th Prize: Ticket no. 0075 (Tinie Josie L. Santos)
 - 5th Prize: Ticket no. 928 (no name)
 - 6th Prize: Ticket no. 309 (Cardine R. Route)
 - 7th Prize: Ticket no. 491 (L. Dean)
 - 8th Prize: Ticket no. 293 (L. Pangelinan)
 - 9th Prize: Ticket no. 931 (Tinian 989-3326)
 - 10th Prize: Ticket no. 192 (T. Manglona)
- Winners need to present the stub to claim their prizes. Un-

claimed prizes 30 days after this publication will be forfeited. Call Penny Norita at 287-4370.

Training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Dec. 21, from 9:30am-5pm, and Dec. 22, from 6am-2pm. The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated. *(PR)*



THE NATIVITY

A life-size crèche depicting the Nativity is on display at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. *HAIDEE V. EUGENIO*

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



This happy birthday shoutout goes out to Advent Lubumad, who is celebrating her birthday today, Dec. 21, 2010! We wish you all the luck and happiness throughout the year! May you have many, many more birthdays to come! God bless! Greetings come from your Joeten Ace Hardware family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Mommy Joann Cruzana, who is celebrating her special day today, Dec. 21, 2010! May the nicest and the sweetest surprises come your way! God bless! With lotsa love from Daphne, Keeno, Queen Anne, and Louis.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 6th birthday to our wonderful son, Terence Antwon Camacho Agulto, who is celebrating his special day today, Dec. 21, 2010! You are our pride and joy! We love you oh so much! May you have many, many more birthdays to come. Greetings come from Tori, Mommy, and Daddy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 21, 1998

Reyes urges recovery of misspent funds

The chair of the House Ways and Means Committee has prodded Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to seek drastic measures that will allow the government to recover millions of dollars in questionable expenses incurred during previous administrations. Representative Karl T. Reyes also expressed doubt that the current administration will be able to retire public deficit, which currently stood at \$57.3 million, by next year as mandated under the Constitution. "We have to find ways to recover those money which are mostly overexpenditures. Who is responsible for that," he said in an interview. "It's like an authorized spending, rather than an actual deficit."

RP, CNMI agree on new labor deal

The Philippines and the Northern Marianas have agreed to come up with implementing guidelines that will give direction to a vague labor pact signed in 1995 which was designed to curb abuses against Filipino workers in CNMI as well as protect local employers. Officials of both governments said the document, to be called "protocol", will be drafted by CNMI's Department of Labor and Immigration, and will be signed in Manila next year. According to Valentin C. Guanilo, deputy administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the guidelines will be attached to the Memorandum of Agreement to make it "more implementable."

Dec. 21, 1999

Doctor to assist NMI in detecting PCB-related diseases

A medical specialist will arrive on Saipan next month to train local doctors on ways to detect symptoms and illnesses related to contamination from the cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) among island residents. Juan N. Babauta, CNMI resident representative to Washington, disclosed the U.S. Department of Interior has agreed to shoulder travel expenses of the doctor from the mainland who has specialized knowledge on the harmful effects of the highly-toxic chemical on humans. Dr. Gershon Bergeisen is scheduled to fly to Saipan in January 2000 to provide training to physicians of the Commonwealth Health Center in recognizing symptoms and illnesses associated with exposure to PCBs and other environmental toxins.

House set to approve FTZ amendments

The House of Representatives is ready to approve changes made by the Senate to the legislation creating free trade zones in the Northern Marianas, which may be tackled in today's scheduled session if there are 14 members attending. Speaker Diego T. Benavente said yesterday he was assured by senators that the changes will not substantially alter the initial proposal drawn up by lawmakers, administration officials and private sector representatives. "I'm hoping that we will be able to accept the Senate amendments which I've been assured will only add provisions with regards to making public lands available for the free trade zones," he said in an interview.

Dec. 21, 2000

OVR reports increase in job placements

The overwhelming rise in the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's performance rating for the year 2000 is significantly reflected in the enhanced management of its programs and services, noting a 180 percent increase in the effectiveness of its employment placements between 1999 and 2000. OVR Director Tee Abraham disclosed in a report that the VR agency has recorded a total of 28 employment placements during Fiscal Year 2000, 75 percent of whom are individuals with significant disabilities. The average hourly wage of clients who have landed jobs is \$5.19 versus last year's \$4.91 hourly average rate.

BOE seeks funds to upgrade system

The Board of Elections is hoping to receive some \$120,000 from the Legislature to buy electronic equipment that will scan ballots and get poll results faster than the manual counting that has been the practice ever since. BOE Executive Director Gregorio C. Sablan said he has been assured by lawmakers that they would appropriate the money in the FY 2001 budget so that his office could purchase it as soon as possible. Called the optical mark reader, the machine costs about \$50,000 and is manufactured by the Omaha-based Electronic Software and System.

USAO contributes to \$6.68B largest recoveries in history

U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco announced that financial collections by the Department

of Justice in criminal and civil actions in fiscal year 2010 reached an all-time high due

to the efforts of the U.S. Attorney's offices nationwide. The 94 U.S. Attorney's office nationwide contributed to the collection of \$6.68 billion during the government's fiscal year. This amount is the most successful collection year by the U.S. Attorney's offices.

According to statistics from the Department of Justice, the U.S. Attorney's office for the District of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands collected \$4,538,883.21 in fiscal year 2010. Of this amount, \$191,657.53 was collected in criminal actions and \$4,347,225.68 was collected in civil actions.

"The U.S. Attorney's office is committed to protecting the public and recovering funds for victims of federal crimes," said Limtiaco. "We will continue to hold accountable those who violate our laws, and who seek to exploit others and profit from their illegal activities. During this time of economic recovery,

these collections in our criminal and civil actions are more important than ever."

The U.S. Attorney's offices are responsible for enforcing and collecting civil and criminal debts owed to the United States and criminal debts owed to federal crime victims. Statistics from the Department of Justice indicate that the total amount collected in criminal actions totaled \$2.84 billion in restitution, criminal fines, and felony assessments. The law requires defendants to pay restitution to victims of certain federal crimes who have suffered a physical injury or financial loss. While restitution is paid directly to the victim, criminal fines and felony assessments are paid to the department's Crime Victims' Fund, which distributes the funds to state and local victim compensation and victim assistance programs.

[Additionally, the U.S. Attorney's offices contributed to the collection of \$1.8 billion in asset forfeiture actions in fiscal year 2010. Forfeited assets are deposited into either the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund or the Department of Treasury Forfeiture Fund and are used to restore funds to crime victims and for a variety of law enforcement purposes.]

The statistics also indicate that \$3.84 billion was collected in civil actions. The largest civil collections were from affirmative civil enforcement cases, in which the United States recovered government money lost to fraud or other misconduct or collected fines imposed on individuals and/or corporations for violations of federal health, safety, civil rights or environmental laws. In addition, civil debts were collected on behalf of sev-

eral federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Internal Revenue Service, and Small Business Administration.

The nationwide collection totals for fiscal year 2010 represent nearly a 30 percent increase in criminal collections and 57 percent in civil collections over fiscal year 2009. In 2009, the U.S. Attorney's offices contributed to the collection of more than \$4.6 billion. Of the amount collected, \$2.23 billion was collected criminally and \$2.44 billion was collected civilly. The significant increase in collections was due to various large criminal restitution cases as well as large health care fraud cases.

For further information, the U.S. Attorney's Annual Statistical Reports through fiscal year 2009 may be found at http://www.justice.gov/usao/reading_room/foiamanuals.html. (USAO)



Limtiaco

Guam's Island Girl Power receives 2010 Pacific Human Rights Award

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho congratulates Island Girl Power for being awarded the SPC/RRRT Pacific Human Rights Award.

According to a release by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, three Pacific Islanders as well as three organizations were honored with this year's Secretariat of the Pacific Community's /Regional Rights Resource Team Pacific Human Rights Award. The award, which focuses on recognizing extraordinary efforts in advancing gender equality in the region, was given to Guam's local non-profit Island Girl Power and Ayuda Foundation among 13 nominations region-wide.

Island Girl Power, a non-profit organization established in 2002, addresses issues facing young girls throughout our community, such as teen pregnancy, suicide, and substance and sexual abuse.

This year's winners will share a monetary award totaling \$10,000 in recognition of their efforts in advancing women's human rights and gender equality in the Pacific region.

"I want to congratulate the Island Girl Power team and all those who continue to show a commitment to our island community, most especially our young women. No words can express how proud and grateful we are for the work you do. On behalf of the people of Guam, we thank you," said Camacho. "I must also commend Ms. Cynthia Cabot and Ms. Ruth Leon Guerrero for taking the lead in nominating Island Girl Power and helping our island

gain this prestigious award for the first time."

The awards were presented by SPC's deputy director-general Fekitamoeloa 'Utoikamanu during a ceremony in Suva, Fiji on Dec. 10, 2010.

For the organization category the overall winner was the Tonga Women and Children's Crisis Centre in recognition of their work on elimination of violence against women.

Two special citation awards were presented to Island Girl Power and Ayuda Foundation (Guam) for empowerment initiatives for young girls on Guam and the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons for their research and advocacy in the area of women with disabilities.

"They have advocated in favor of the peaceful resolution of conflict, young girls' empowerment and for democracy, free speech and public accountability. They have put at risk their personal safety and financial security, and have persevered when their goals seemed unattainable. They are committed women's human rights defenders," said Sarah Goulding, Counselor Development Co-operation, Australian High Commission Suva.

Nominees for this year's award must have demonstrated strong commitment to social justice, human rights, democracy and the rule of law with a focus on gender equality, as well as a high degree of commitment in their personal lives and actions to the framework of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (PR)



TOUR OF MANILA

Officials and staff of Maeda Pacific Corp. have their picture taken at the Luneta Park in Manila on Dec. 3, 2010, during the company-sponsored trip to the Philippines. The park marks the site where the Philippines' national hero, Jose Rizal, is buried. It was also the place where he was executed by a firing squad. MPC president Tom Nielsen, standing fourth from right, vice president Tsutomu Yamakawa, standing second from left, and MPC Guam and Saipan engineers and staff toured Manila and visited Luneta, Fort Santiago, the walled city of Intramuros and the presidential mansion, Malacanang Palace. Everybody said they enjoyed the trip and are looking forward to next year's trip.

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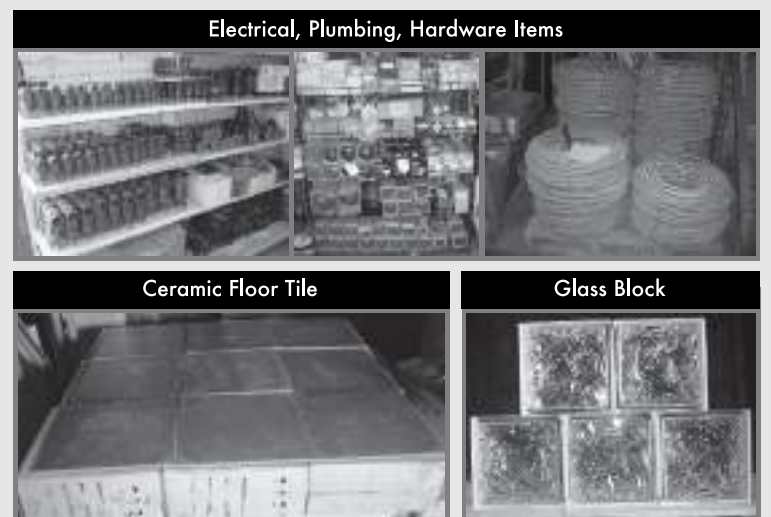
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Hafa Adahi

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

For the middle class, bad times even during good times

No, it's not just you.

Over the past two years, millions of Americans have been reeling from high joblessness and the collapsing housing bubble.

A comprehensive new analysis of economic data and attitude surveys released this week finds that 93 percent of Americans took a big financial hit over the last 18 months.

Researchers defined that hit as unemployment, a substantial income drop or large new expenses that most often were caused by medical costs or family obligations.

No, it's not just the recession.

Over the past 30 years, middle-class families have faced greater insecurity as a result of what Yale University political science professor Jacob Hacker has dubbed the "Great Risk Shift."

That loss of economic security is magnified by the erosion of defined-benefit plans, which makes retirement less secure. Another factor is the rise in the number of "contract employees" who have no job security. That's helped to create unprecedented year-to-year swings in family income.

The new analysis, prepared by Hacker and colleagues at Yale and Ohio State, found that 23 percent of American families experienced an income decline of at least 25 percent between 2008 and 2009. Other studies by Hacker have reported a growing income volatility over the previous 30 years.

Another factor: health insurance changes that shift a greater portion of medical costs onto working families. When serious illness strikes, that can be devastating. Unexpected medical expenses are a factor in about half of all personal bankruptcies.

"Economic insecurity has become the rule, not the exception, for many Americans—even in good times," the new report concludes.

Changes that produced the decline neither were inevitable nor a necessary byproduct of economic freedom.

Many were the result of political decisions, such as deregulation of financial services by Republican and Democratic administrations.

Also tipping the balance was the declining political influence of organized labor as business groups became more aggressive in pressing their economic interests. Their rationale was that everyone benefits when business does. Yet corporate profits reached a record \$1.659 trillion during the third quarter of 2010, but unemployment remains high and the economy sluggish.

The cumulative effect of those political choices helped produce a nearly unprecedented concentration of wealth and power.

The richest 20 percent of Americans today collect about half of the nation's wage income and control about 84 percent of all forms of wealth.

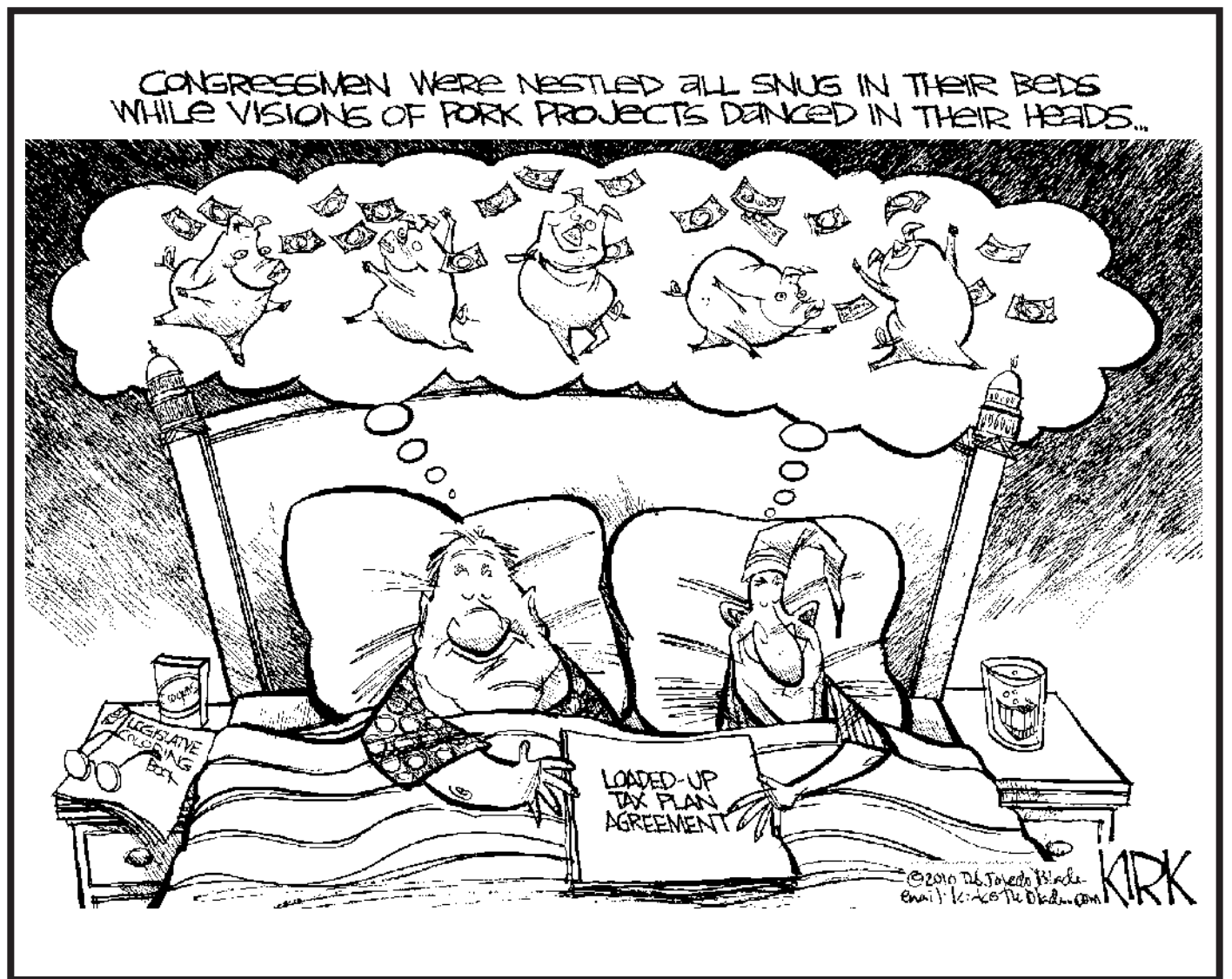
Their power is so great that, in order to secure \$56 billion to extend unemployment benefits, President Barack Obama cut a deal that provided tax breaks worth about \$100 billion for the richest Americans. Also included were reductions in the estate tax that will benefit about 6,600 very wealthy families at a cost of another \$14 billion to the rest of us. That's \$2 in benefits to the richest Americans for every dollar to laid-off workers.

Simply mentioning those facts provokes a Pavlovian response: "class warfare."

It's not class warfare to note that decisions made by both political parties benefited the wealthiest Americans while undermining millions of middle-class families.

"There is class warfare, all right," billionaire investor Warren Buffett observed not long ago. "But it is my class, the rich class, that's making war. And we're winning."

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Iraq's war on Christians

As much of the world once more prepares to celebrate the birth of Christ, it is a melancholy fact that many of the most ancient churches established in his name are being pushed to the brink of oblivion across the region where their faith was born.

The culprits are Salafist Islam's increasingly virulent intolerance, the West's convenient indifference and, in the case of Iraq, America's failure to make responsible provisions to protect minorities from the violent disorder that has persisted since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003.

When America intervened to overthrow Saddam Hussein, Iraq's Christians—mostly Chaldeans and Assyrians—numbered about 1.4 million, or about 3 percent of the population. Over the last seven years, more than half have fled the country and, as the New York Times reported this week, a wave of targeted killings—including the Oct. 31 slaying of 51 worshipers and two priests during Mass at one of Baghdad's largest churches—has sent many more Christians fleeing. Despite Prime Minister Nouri Maliki's promises to increase security, many believe the Christians are being targeted not only by Al-Qaida in Iraq, which has instructed its fighters "to kill Christians wherever they can reach them," but also by complicit elements within the government's security services.

The United States, meanwhile, does nothing—as it did nothing four years ago, when Father Boulos Iskander was kidnapped, beheaded and dismembered; or three years ago, when Father Ragheed Ganni was shot dead at the altar of this church; or two years ago, when Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho was kidnapped and murdered; as it has done nothing about all the church bombings and assassinations of lay Christians that have become commonplace over the last seven years.

The human tragedy of all this is compounded by the historic one. The churches of the Middle East preserve the traditions of the Apostolic era in ways no other Christian rites or denominations do. The followers of Jesus were first called Christians in Antioch Syria, and it was there that the Gospels first were written down in Koine Greek. For 1,000 years, the churches of Iraq and Syria were great centers of Christian thought and art. Today, the Christian population is declining in every majority Muslim country in the region and is under increasingly severe pressure even in Lebanon, where it still constitutes 35 percent of the population.

Putting aside America's particular culpability in Iraq, the West as a community of nations has long turned a blind eye to the

By **TIM RUTTEN**
Los Angeles Times

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intolerance of the Middle East's Muslim states—an intolerance that has intensified with the spread of Salafism, Islam's brand of militant fundamentalism. Our ally Saudi Arabia is the great financial and ideological backer of this hatred. In fact, when it comes to religion, the kingdom and North Korea are the most criminally intolerant countries in the world.

Oil and geopolitics prevent the United States and Western European countries from speaking out against what amounts to genocide, though something more sinister than self-interest also is at work. The soft bigotry of minimal expectation is in play, an unspoken presumption that Muslim societies simply can't be held to the same standards of humane, rational and decent conduct that govern the affairs of other nations.

Paradoxically, the one country in the Middle East whose Christian population has grown in recent years is Israel, where more than 150,000 Christians enjoy religious freedom. That lends a particular pathos to the way in which the current persecution of Christians mirrors that which destroyed most of the region's ancient Jewish communities following Israel's establishment in 1948. Iraq, for example, was home to one of the Mideast's largest and most vibrant Jewish populations, one that predated Christianity by many centuries. It was in the great Jewish academies along the Euphrates that the more authoritative of the two Talmuds was argued out and compiled after the Second Temple's destruction. All that was swept away in a wave of hatred, as were all but vestiges of the equally ancient Jewish communities in Morocco, Egypt, Yemen, Syria and, more recently, Iran.

As one of the recent Christian refugees from Baghdad told the New York Times this week, "It's exactly what happened to the Jews."

A world still dazed and distracted by a world war's aftermath stood by and did nothing then. The West has no such excuse now.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Knowing answers to the test of a lifetime

All right people, take out a pen and sheet of paper because today you will take a 10-question quiz about your country and its government.

After you have answered the questions, I'd like you to give this short test to some of your neighbors, friends or co-workers to see how well they do.

Ready?

1. The Federalist Papers are often injected into public discourse these days. Who wrote the papers, and what pen name was used by the authors when they were published?
2. What year was the Constitution written?
3. How many amendments does the Constitution have, and how many of the amendments are about who can vote?
4. What were the 13 original states?
5. Who becomes president of the United States if both the president and vice president are unable to serve?
6. Who was president during World War I?
7. What did Susan B. Anthony do?
8. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?
9. Name the U.S. territories.
10. How many U.S. states border Mexico? How many border Canada?

Pretty simple, huh? Especially for all you patriots who pride yourselves on your knowledge of the Constitution and American history.

But my guess is many of you did not make 100 percent on this quiz, not without looking up some answers on the Internet or in other source material.

What if I told you that thousands upon thousands of immigrants to this country can answer these questions and that many of them know more about U.S. history and government than a lot of native-born citizens?

These questions are from a study guide—complete with booklet, audio CD and large attractive flash cards—prepared by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

People from countries all over the world continue to work hard to gain U.S. citizenship despite the anti-immigration sentiment that seems to be sweeping the country, particularly as Congress debates whether to pass the DREAM Act for illegal immigrants brought here as children.

Those seeking naturalization are asked up to 10 questions from the list of 100 in the study guide, and they must answer at least six to pass the civics tests. They also must pass an English speaking and reading test, unless they are exempted under age and permanent residency provisions.

Last year, more than 743,000 people became naturalized citizens, which was down 300,000 from the year before, according to a report by the Office of Immigration Statistics of the U. S. Department of Homeland Security. There had been a spike in applications beginning in 2007 in order to beat a significant fee increase and in response to a push to get eligible immigrants to become citizens.

"Asia has been the leading region of origin of new citizens in most years since 1976," the report said. Prior to the 1970s, Europe was the continent of origin for most naturalized Americans.

In terms of birth countries of new U.S. citizens last year, Mexico led with 111,630 (15 percent), followed by India with 52,889

By **BOB RAY SANDERS**
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

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(7.1 percent), the Philippines with 38,934 (5.2 percent), China with 37,130 (5 percent) and Vietnam with 31,168 (4.2 percent).

Many of the immigrants' stories are inspiring, but I was especially moved last month when the USCIS issued a statement noting that, in fiscal year 2010, citizenship was granted to 11,146 members of the U.S. armed forces at ceremonies in the United States and 22 foreign countries.

"This figure represents the highest number of service members naturalized in any year since 1955," the statement said. "The number is a 6 percent increase from the 10,505 naturalizations in fiscal year 2009 and a significant increase from the 7,865 naturalizations in fiscal year 2008. Since September 2001, USCIS has naturalized nearly 65,000 service men and women, including those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Imagine all those immigrants serving our—and now their—country. They've all passed a test more significant than their knowledge of history and government.

By the way, if you had problems answering the questions in the quiz, send me an e-mail. Or just ask an immigrant who is now a naturalized citizen.

First they came for my Twinkie...

To ring in 2011, let's raise a toast in unison to proclaim the most frequently made New Year's resolution. Then promptly break it.

Yes, it's the season for the annual American vow to lose weight.

But first, let's argue about just how much leverage the government should exert to squeeze us back into our skinny jeans. Now that it is well established that a full two-thirds of adults and one-third of school-aged children are overweight or obese.

But here we are, with the president's signature barely dry on the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, and the grousing is accelerating.

Nanny state politics run amok, decry the tea party activists. Get Michelle Obama and her gardening frock out of my child's choice of french fries, fried chicken and a cupcake. Unless someone puts a fork in this scheme, the sodium-and-sugar partisan cry, the White House will turn us into twig-gnawing vegetarians, with nothing but carrots left in the vending machines. What we stuff into our mouths is our choice — often a bad choice, but ours to make!

Hold on, says the more reasonable side. If the government is subsidizing school meal programs, shouldn't there also be strong nutritional guidelines on exactly what is being dished onto the plastic school lunch tray? I think so.

The act strengthens the standards for school programs and also calls for steps to ensure that more of children who are eligible receive the meals. This is hardly Armageddon. It's about feeding hun-

gry children healthy food.

And given that childhood obesity and the resulting rates of diabetes and other health issues wind up costing taxpayers to treat the uninsured, wouldn't it be fiscally more prudent to nip this nutritional demon when our children are younger and less rotund?

Obviously, there is a balance to be struck. If people chose to gorge and not exercise, the government can't and shouldn't seek to stop every decadent morsel.

The differing views often come wrapped in rather nasty insinuations about the obese. (I'll admit I prefer things wrapped in bacon.) Although it is often discussed in less than polite terms, correlations exist between obesity and race, class and education.

The highest rates of obesity occur among populations with the highest rates of poverty and the least education, more so among women. And people aren't crazy to note that families deemed "food insecure," which basically means struggling to put meals on the table, are sometimes led by overweight adults.

Advocates have not done a sufficient job of explaining what they term the "hunger-obesity paradox." Basically, families often reach for easily accessible, calorie-dense but nutritional vapid food, which is why families that need anti-hunger programs the most may be headed by an obese parent.

Among kids who don't have a safe places to play or safe sidewalks, or who have fewer opportunities for organized sports, the impact multiplies. These children, partly due to poor exercise and eating habits set early in life, are at increased risk of being obese as adults.

By **MARY SANCHEZ**
The Kansas City Star

Mary Sanchez is an opinion-page columnist for The Kansas City Star. Readers may write to her at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or via e-mail at msanchez@kcstar.com.



Still, it also bears noting that, according to two new reports by the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics, all income and education levels are getting fatter. Our national weight problem isn't all due to economics, environments and a lack of healthier choices.

Being poor does not have to equate so strongly with obesity. It didn't used to. Back in my mother's day, she didn't raise her own chickens because she desired to nibble free range or organic fowl. Eggs provided income on the farm. Every now and then, the family would cull from the hen house to feed themselves.

Mom also knew the virtue of a good ham hock, a technique she passed to me. Give me a bag of split peas, an onion and a ham hock and I'll provide enough soup to feed a moderate-sized family, very cheaply.

Somewhere along the way, these penny-wise eating skills have been lost amid fast food choices, an array of nutritionally questionable snacking options and, yes, laziness. If it takes some government spending to re-educate people, I'm all for reaping the benefits of a healthier nation.

EPA's costly rules will cost jobs, set back nation's economic recovery

FLINT, Mich.—Our nation is in a high stakes race with China to develop clean energy technologies but we are falling behind. It may be hard to remember now, but we surprised the world years ago by overtaking Russia in the space race, and we can surpass China now if we make some small but important changes in government energy policy.

While our industries, universities and research centers have achieved great technological advances through innovation, some of our energy policies are slowing progress, and we are currently stuck in neutral.

The Obama Administration seems committed to the idea that in order to achieve breakthroughs in the development of technologies for low-carbon energy sources, we must raise the cost of fossil fuels.

Thus, the Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and large industries beginning in January. The agency maintains that power plants and factories can reduce emissions.

Since coal accounts for more than half of the electricity produced in the United States, and no technology for capturing and storing carbon power-plant emissions is commercially available yet, the EPA would force utilities to shut down many coal plants and use alternative energy sources instead.

EPA's plan is troublesome. Our nation is finally beginning to emerge from one of the worst economic downturns in many years, and raising the cost of burning coal and other fossil fuels will stall the recovery.

The cost of switching fuels for utility companies will be in the tens of billions of dollars—and it will be passed directly to businesses and households in the form of higher electricity prices. Thousands of U.S. jobs could be in jeopardy.

If the EPA proceeds with carbon regulation and power plants are forced to close, energy costs will climb and companies will have less money available for the very research on clean-energy technologies that we need in order to stay competitive with China and other countries.

The Obama Administration's policy of picking winners and losers in energy development is really not helpful. It should stop subsidizing renewable sources like solar thermal power, wind energy and biomass that can't compete in the marketplace. Solar and wind energy can only provide energy intermittently at best, and even with heavy subsidies, they still account for only a small fraction of America's energy production.

The need for energy technologies that are reliable and affordable is too great to allow ideologues and government bureaucrats to stop the country from doing what needs to be done.

Private industry needs the freedom to innovate and discover new technologies. Over the past five years, oil and natural gas companies have developed safe and efficient techniques to drill through shale. Through a combination of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, companies can now reach enormous deposits of natural gas in

By **MARK J. PERRY**
McClatchy-Tribune Information Services

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Appalachia, Texas, Louisiana and other regions of the country. And some of the same techniques are now being used to access large deposits of oil in western North Dakota.

This advance in drilling technology has reduced market prices dramatically and made natural gas the new fuel of choice.






Because natural gas produces 60 percent less carbon than coal and no mercury or other particulate emissions, its use as a fuel for electricity production is certain to grow. It's reliable. It's clean. And it's ushering in a low-carbon future at a fraction of the cost of government regulation.

A free market can deliver the energy Americans need. Congress needs to make sure the EPA doesn't sabotage that process with costly, ideological rules.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲85 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼75
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼74

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼66
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲41 ▼17
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲73 ▼53
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲80 ▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲34 ▼30
Los Angeles	Rain	▲58 ▼51
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲71 ▼48
Miami	Sunny	▲74 ▼55
New York	Windy	▲36 ▼26
Osaka	Showers	▲57 ▼46
Paris	Showers	▲39 ▼37
Pusan	Sunny	▲54 ▼40
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲60 ▼49
Salem	Showers	▲46 ▼39
San Francisco	Showers	▲58 ▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲44 ▼29
Tokyo	Showers	▲56 ▼47
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲37 ▼30

Tides				
Saipan Harbor				
1:27 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
8:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
1:49 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	
6:35 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N162E across Pagan and Agrihan to beyond 130E at 15N. Cloudiness, scattered showers and patchy rain are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A small circulation is centered east-northeast of Wake Island at 21N179E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located east of 177E from 20N to 23E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:38 AM	5:52 PM	Today	5:47 PM	6:14 AM
Wednesday	6:39 AM	5:52 PM	Wednesday	6:48 PM	7:11 AM
Thursday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM	Thursday	7:49 PM	8:05 AM
Friday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM	Friday	8:49 PM	8:55 AM
Saturday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM	Saturday	9:48 PM	9:42 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM			GUAM-SAIPAN		
C09317	4:25am	5:15am Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am 3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am 3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
DL287	6:10am	8:45am Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN		
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN		
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN		
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1 Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN		
FM844	2:50am	5:40am 2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN		
CA988	3:15am	6:55am 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN		
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am 1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm 4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am 3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm 3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm 3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1 7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm 3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm 5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1 6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1 3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm 7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1 5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1 1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1 4 via GUM
			C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1 3 via GUM
			C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG			HONG KONG-SAIPAN		
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm 1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1 7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Business

Shoppers crowd the malls in Christmas countdown

NEW YORK (AP)—Packed malls? Healthy gains in holiday spending? It's beginning to look at least a little like a pre-recession Christmas.

Americans spent more on clothing, luxury goods and even furniture, delivering healthy gains across the board, according to MasterCard Advisors' SpendingPulse, which tracks spending across all transactions including cash. The online category continued to be a bright spot. The big exception was consumer electronics, dragged down by deep discounting of TVs amid a glut. That area was virtually unchanged from a year ago.

"This is the first normal Christmas in three years," said Michael McNamara, vice president of research and analysis for SpendingPulse. He said there is "genuine de-

mand" for a variety of products, even higher-ticket items.

Sales of clothing rose 9.8 percent, with particular strength in men's clothing. Jewelry revenue rose 2.6 percent and furniture rose 3.4 percent, according to SpendingPulse, whose data covered the period from Oct. 31 through Saturday compared with the same period a year ago.

Malls reported higher traffic over the weekend, including the Saturday before Christmas, known as "Super Saturday." It's one of the busiest shopping days of the year. Research firm ShopperTrak expects it will be the third-busiest this year. The lack of any major storms nationwide was a boon for shoppers.

The strong numbers are encouraging to retailers, who only this fall remained worried that the inventory they ordered earlier in the year when the eco-

nomie recovery looked stronger might end up being too much.

But after a slowdown in spending this summer, spending has picked up amid more positive economic signs. McNamara said that there's no evidence of emergency discounting and that stores have appropriate levels of inventory.

Robin Lewis, CEO of The Robin Report, a retail insiders' newsletter, said the spending stems from three factors: consumers have been paying down their debt slightly, the savings rate has decreased slightly and working hours have increased, partly due to seasonal demand.

"Those three things put a few more bucks in their pocket," which becomes significant combined with pent-up demand.

Still, spending is still below pre-recession levels in many categories. McNamara estimat-

ed that furniture is about 20 percent below the level before the Great Recession, while luxury and jewelry sales are about 10 percent below the peak before the big downturn. Clothing sales are recovering faster.

At the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn., the nation's largest mall, Public Relations Director Dan Jasper said

a big snowstorm the weekend before that closed the mall early had shoppers packing the mall to catch up. Preliminary reports showed 200,000 came to the mall Saturday, making it one of its busiest days ever and the busiest day so far this year.

"People are a little panicked. I'm hearing them say 'We've gotta get this done,' and that

doesn't usually show up until the 22nd or the 23rd."

It wasn't the only mall that saw packed stores and parking lots. Greg Maloney, CEO of the retail practice of Jones Lang LaSalle, which operates about 90 malls across the country, said traffic was up 10 percent to 12 percent across the country over the same weekend last year.



Customer service associate Lamar Pointdexter, center, helps a customer while working as a line expeditor at the Manhattan Mall J.C. Penney store in New York.

Senate passes food safety bill, again

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate on Sunday passed a sweeping bill to make food safer, sending it to the House in the waning days of Congress.

It was the second time the Senate passed the bill, which would give the government broad new powers to increase inspections of food processing facilities and force companies to recall tainted food. The chamber passed the bill for the first time three weeks ago, but it was caught in a constitutional snag when senators mistakenly included tax provisions that are by law supposed to originate in the House.

The version of the legislation passed by the Senate on Sunday is amended to avoid another such mishap.

The bill would place stricter standards on imported foods and require larger producers to follow tougher rules for keeping

food safe. The legislation has enjoyed bipartisan support, and supporters say passage is crucial in the wake of E. coli and salmonella outbreaks in peanuts, eggs and produce.

Recent domestic outbreaks of E. coli and salmonella have exposed a lack of resources and authority at the Food and Drug Administration as the embattled agency struggled to contain and trace the contaminated products. The agency rarely inspects many food facilities and farms, visiting some every decade or so and others not at all.

The bill would emphasize prevention so the agency could try to stop outbreaks before they begin. Farmers and food processors would have to tell the FDA how they are working to keep their food safe at different stages of production.

The House originally tried

to rectify the Senate mistake by including the legislation in a year-end budget bill. Senators also included food safety in their version of the budget bill, but the spending legislation hit a roadblock when Republicans insisted it not include any add-ons.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., resurrected the bill—which many thought was dead as Congress rushes to wrap up for the year—by passing it and sending it to the House as a standalone measure Sunday. He said the bill is necessary because the food safety system has not been updated in almost a century.

"It is a huge victory for consumers following a weekend cliffhanger as both consumer and industry supporters prepared for bad news," said online Smith DeWaal, director of food safety at the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

Asian shares fall amid Korean peninsula tensions

TOKYO (AP)—Asian stock markets fell Monday as Seoul prepared to hold live firing drills that threaten to escalate tensions with North Korea. South Korea's Kospi was down 0.9 percent to 2,009.52 after earlier falling as much as 1.5 percent. South Korea said Monday it would go ahead with the drills from a front-line island despite North Korea's threat to retaliate. Marines were expected to conduct the one-day artillery drills on Yeonpyeong Island, which was shelled by a North Korean artillery barrage last month.

Chinese endure power shortages as coal runs short

SHANGHAI (AP)—Power cuts and rationing are hitting parts of central and northern China as winter coal supplies fall short of surging energy requirements due to extreme cold and transport disruptions. China's State Grid, the government power provider, said in reports seen Monday on

its websites that recent winter storms had pushed demand higher while causing traffic disruptions that have hindered coal deliveries. Phone calls to the State Grid's branches in central China's Henan, Shanxi, Shaanxi, Chongqing and Hubei provinces—the areas reportedly worst affected—rang unanswered Monday.

Italy's Padoa Schioppa, architect of euro, dies

ROME (AP)—Italian economist Tommaso Padoa Schioppa, one of the intellectual architects of the euro and a member of the European Central Bank's first executive board, has died. He was 70. Padoa Schioppa, economy minister under Premier Romano Prodi, died Saturday night after suffering a heart attack during a dinner in Rome with friends, according to one of those present, his one-time deputy Vincenzo Visco. The unexpected death stunned Italy's political and business elite, who remembered him as a passionate promoter of the European project and its single currency.

Gawker hack underscores flaws with passwords

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The fallout from a hacking attack on Gawker Media Inc. a week ago underscores a basic security risk of living more of our lives online: Using the same username and password for multiple sites is convenient, but costly.

After the attack on the publisher of such blogs as Gawker, Gizmodo and Jezebel exposed account information on as many as 1.4 million people, several unrelated companies had to freeze their accounts and force users to reset passwords.

Gawker Media itself didn't have all that much sensitive information about its users. But the usernames and passwords obtained there could open doors to more valuable accounts elsewhere, including e-mail and banking.

Twitter, Google Inc. and Yahoo Inc., among others, saw the potential damage and began resetting their passwords en masse, disrupting users as they tried to check their e-mail or post a tweet.

"It shows one of the fundamental problems with passwords—they get reused and shared across multiple sites," said Jeff Burstein, a senior product manager with the Symantec Corp. security firm.

Despite repeated warnings from security companies not to do so, users tend to reuse passwords anyway because they can be hard to remember and

manage. Users may have dozens, perhaps hundreds, of accounts—for e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, e-retailers, banks and the growing number of news websites and blogs requiring registration.

Although account information gets compromised all the time, the infiltration of Gawker's servers is noteworthy because the hacked data were posted online, for free. In most other breaches, the stolen data are never made public, but sold underground to criminals.

Because the databases were freely available, other sites were able to score the data and look for matches with their users.

Twitter acknowledged resetting some passwords for its 175 million users after hackers used the Gawker data to break into Twitter accounts and pump out links to a site selling acai berry drinks.

At least two of the biggest web e-mail providers, Yahoo and Google, also reset some passwords. Neither would say how many of its users were affected. Google described it as a "small subset" of its users.

Job-networking service LinkedIn also changed a small number of its 85 million users' passwords.

Some websites said the breach didn't affect them because they don't rely solely on passwords.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. said

it didn't have to change any passwords because the bank has "multiple layers of security."

Banks typically require security questions and other challenges beyond just usernames and passwords to get into their sites, particularly when someone logs on from a specific computer for the first time.

So what can be done to better protect consumers? Security experts say the Gawker breach shows that it's time to move beyond passwords.

But people are used to needing only usernames and passwords to log onto accounts, and piling on more layers of security can be a hassle.

Many sites are trying to do the best with what they've got and what they think their users will accept. They require strong passwords that are tough to break with "brute force" attacks—using computers to keep trying commonly used passwords against an account until one works.

But those requirements have made it harder for people to remember their passwords, and that increases the likelihood that they'll be used across multiple sites.

Security tools that take advantage of smart phones can make it harder for strangers to break into your accounts. You're given a code through your phone to enter on the website with your password.

Nation

Students look to 2012 after immigration bill fails

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Emboldened by months of phone calls to lawmakers, hunger strikes and sit-ins, a group of college students and graduates in Los Angeles say they plan to take their fight for immigrant rights to the states and the 2012 election after Senate Republicans blocked a key piece of legislation.

But it won't be easy.

The Senate vote Saturday to toss the proposal that would have granted young illegal immigrants a route to legal status dealt a harsh blow to student activists who will face an even steeper uphill battle

in the next Congress.

Immigrants see rough times ahead in the next two years, with many Republicans vowing to push for tougher immigration enforcement, but they also say Latino voters are getting fed up with lawmakers at a time when they are accruing greater political clout.

"This is a movement," said Nancy Meza, a 23-year-old illegal immigrant and college graduate who wore a University of California, Los Angeles sweatshirt as she watched the televised vote. "We don't have

lobbyists and paid staff. It's a movement by students."

In the hours after the vote, Meza and about 50 other student activists who had gathered at the UCLA Downtown Labor Center said they would remind Latinos who stood by them—and those who did not—in the next election cycle. They will push for access to financial aid and drivers' licenses in states more friendly to immigrants like California.

Few said the legislation, many called the Dream Act, had a chance in the next two years

with Republicans taking control of the House of Representatives and a shrinking Democratic majority in the Senate. But they said that wouldn't derail the networks they had set up across the country to support illegal immigrant students and help them reveal their status and learn to live unafraid.

Some at the UCLA center, including university student Leslie Perez, 22, wept as they watched the vote on a big screen.

Minutes after it was over,

many donned jackets and umbrellas to take to the rainy streets of Los Angeles, chanting "undocumented and unafraid."

Republicans might consider some kind of measure to help the students, but it would probably be much narrower, said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates stricter limits on immigration.

"This has a real demoralizing effect," Krikorian said of the student activists. "There's only

so long you can keep up these hunger strikes and all this political theater they've been engaging in, especially if there's no specific target."

Another challenge is students could wind up feeling excluded when they can't work after graduation, despite their political activism.

"It may alienate the group we most want to incorporate," said Louis DeSipio, a professor of political science at University of California, Irvine.



UCLA student Jose Ortiz, 20, reacts as the Dream Act fails to move forward in the Senate during televised coverage of proceedings at the UCLA Downtown Labor Center in Los Angeles, Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010.

With gay ban debate over, military impact in doubt

WASHINGTON (AP)—The debate over gays in the military has been settled with a historic decision to allow them to serve openly, but big questions lie ahead about how and when the change will take place, how troops will accept it and whether it will hamper the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan and Iraq.

President Barack Obama is expected to sign into law this week the legislation that passed the Senate on Saturday, an act some believe will carry social implications as profound as President Harry S. Truman's 1948 executive order on racial equality in the military.

The new law probably won't go into practice for months. Obama and his top advisers must first certify that repealing the 1993 ban on gays serving openly will not damage U.S. troops' ability to fight. That ban, known as "don't ask, don't tell," has allowed gays to serve, but only if they kept quiet about their sexual orientation.

In the meantime, the restrictions will remain on the books, although it's unclear how fully they will be enforced. Some believe gay discharge cases will

be dropped as soon as Obama signs the law.

The issue of gays in the military has been a contentious one for decades. Until 1993, all recruits had to state on a questionnaire whether they were homosexual; if they said "yes," they could not join. More than 13,500 service members were dismissed under the law.

In the years since the ban went into effect, views in the wider society have evolved. Gay marriage is now legal in five states and the District of Columbia. Opinion surveys say a majority of Americans think it's OK for gays to serve in uniform.

The repeal vote by Congress was a political victory for Obama, who campaigned on ending the ban. Even though opponents have made clear they will continue to argue against the change, Peter Mansoor, a retired Army colonel who commanded a brigade in Iraq, said Sunday he believes the military—from top commanders to foot soldiers—will accept their new orders.

"Pretty much all the heated discussion is over and now it's a matter of the more mundane as-

pects of implementing the law," Mansoor, a professor of military history at Ohio State University, said in a telephone interview.

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos, who had argued against the policy change, said Sunday that "the Marine Corps will step out smartly to faithfully implement this new policy."

Amos vowed to "personally lead this effort, thus ensuring the respect and dignity due all Marines."

Implementation begins, under terms of the legislation, with Obama's certification to Congress—for which there's no stated deadline. There is room for argument, however, about what certification must entail and how long it should take. Even after that, there will be a mandatory 60-day waiting period.

Aaron Belkin, director of the Palm Center, a research institute at the University of California, Santa Barbara, said he expects the Pentagon to announce shortly that it needs a long time for training and education to prepare troops for the change—possibly lasting much of 2011.

McConnell to vote against treaty with Russians

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate's Republican leader said Sunday he would oppose a nuclear arms treaty with Russia, complicating President Barack Obama's drive to secure a foreign policy victory in the final days of the postelection Congress. Senior Democrats still expressed confidence the Senate would ratify the accord and pushed for a show-down vote early this week.

The White House and Democrats are determined to win approval of the landmark treaty before January, when Republicans increase their numbers in the Senate, dimming its outlook. During a rare Sunday debate, Democrats beat back a GOP amendment to change the treaty, which would have effectively killed it. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., set a vote for Tuesday to end the debate and move to a final vote.

Hours earlier, Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., dealt a blow to the administration's hopes for strong bipartisan support, criticizing the

treaty's verification system and expressing concern that the pact would limit U.S. missile defense options even though Obama insisted Saturday that the treaty imposes no restrictions on missile defense.

"Rushing it right before Christmas strikes me as trying to jam us," McConnell said on CNN's "State of the Union." "I think that was not the best way to get the support of people like me."

While McConnell's opposition did not come as a surprise, it unnerved the treaty's backers, who wondered how hard he would work to defeat the accord. Treaties require a two-thirds majority of those voting in the Senate, and Republican votes are critical to Obama's success in getting the agreement.

Democrats expect to get 57 votes from their caucus, with Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., absent next week due to cancer surgery. Four Republican senators—Richard Lugar of Indiana, Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine and George Voi-

novich of Ohio—have said they back the treaty.

While backers fretted over McConnell's decision, several Republicans said Obama's letter to congressional leaders Saturday vowing to move ahead on missile defense carried considerable sway.

"It takes care of me," said Sen. Robert Bennett, R-Utah, who indicated he was leaning toward voting for the treaty. Snowe said it was "important for the president to be emphatic with respect to missile defense and modernization" of the remaining nuclear arsenal. Voinovich welcomed the statement.

Sen. John McCain of Arizona, Obama's presidential rival in 2008, said he was still undecided.

Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed the accord—it is known as New START—in April. It would limit each country's strategic nuclear warheads to 1,550, down from the current ceiling of 2,200. It would also establish a system for monitoring and verification. U.S. weapons inspections ended a year ago with the expiration of a 1991 treaty.



McConnell



ACROSS THE NATION

Car careens into tree, porch in Pa.; 4 die, 1 hurt

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. (AP)—Police say a car ran off a road and through several yards in central Pennsylvania before hitting a fire hydrant, a tree and the porch of a house, killing four people. The crash happened around 2 a.m. Sunday in a mostly residential section of Chambersburg. Authorities say the car passed another at high speed before going out of control. Franklin County coroner Jeffrey Conner says three men were ejected from the car and they and a woman were pronounced dead at the scene. Conner identifies them as 24-year-old Felix Perez-Cenas, 25-year-old Dorian Sanchez-Reyes, 18-year-old Tomas Ramirez and 22-year-old Cecelia Ramirez.

Girl, 11, seriously injured in Colo tour bus crash

GUNNISON, Colo. (AP)—An 11-year-old girl was seriously injured and seven other passengers had moderate injuries after their tour bus veered off an icy mountain highway in central Colorado, the Colorado State Patrol said Sun-

day. The 47-year-old driver, Fred Kornegay, was not hurt, but the 38 other passengers were taken to a hospital with minor injuries for precautionary reasons after the crash around 8:20 p.m. Saturday. The tour bus was carrying a group from Trinity United Methodist Church in Denton, Texas, to the ski resort town of Crested Butte when it crashed on Highway 114, about eight miles southeast of Gunnison, the State Patrol said.

Volunteers count 6,220 birds in NYC's Central Park

NEW YORK (AP)—Birdwatchers have counted 6,220 birds and 59 bird species in New York City's Central Park. Sunday's 111th annual Christmas Bird Count found some birds that are rarely spotted in New York this time of year such as the red-headed woodpecker. The count was undertaken by teams of birdwatchers guided by park rangers. They spent the morning canvassing the Manhattan park's 843 acres. Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe (BEN'-uh-pee) says the total number of birds was boosted by good weather.

Asia

Philippines fire kills 15, many nursing students

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A fire rapidly swept through a budget hotel in the northern Philippines early Sunday burning to death 15 people—several crammed in bathrooms where they fled in panic. Nine of the victims were nursing students in town to take a licensing exam.

Some firefighters were moved to tears after finding the badly burned bodies in the upper floors of the five-story hotel and

offered prayers before retrieving the remains, fire investigator Daniel Abana said. The fire raged for eight hours and gutted the Bed and Breakfast Pension House in Cagayan province's capital of Tuguegarao city.

The students who survived the fire went on to take the exam on Sunday, including one who showed up in slippers and sleeping clothes.

Relatives grieved at a morgue

PM: 48 may have died in boat crash off Australia

SYDNEY (AP)—The number of asylum seekers believed killed when their boat smashed into rocky cliffs along an Australian island rose to 48 on Monday, as the prime minister warned that those still missing may never be found.

Thirty bodies have been recovered since a rickety boat packed with Iraqi, Iranian and Kurdish asylum seekers smashed into the rocks on Christmas Island last week and broke apart in stormy seas. Forty-two people were rescued from the churning surf, but officials believe many more were swept away in the strong currents, or sank to the ocean floor.

Rescue workers have been interviewing survivors to help determine exactly how many people were on board so they can clarify how many are still missing.

On Monday, Prime Minister Julia Gillard said it appears about 90 asylum seekers were on the boat, based on the latest information from the Australian Federal Police.

"That does mean, of course, that we are still not able to account for around 18 people on the boat," Gillard told reporters in Canberra. "But I do say that

we may never know the total number with certainty."

Immigration Minister Chris Bowen said Saturday that the search for survivors had switched to a search for bodies in the waters surrounding remote Christmas Island, an Australian territory in the Indian Ocean. But Gillard warned Monday that those still missing may never be found.

"We are, of course, talking about very rough seas, very rocky and difficult coastline, and so it may be that there are bodies of people who traveled on the boat that are never recovered," she said. "So that is obviously very, very grim news."

Australia is a top destination for asylum seekers hoping to start new lives after escaping from poor, war-ravaged countries. In recent years, many refugee hopefuls from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Myanmar have flown to Indonesia and then continued on to Australia by sea, in rickety, jam-packed boats that have few provisions and no safety gear.

Asylum seekers who are intercepted by officials are generally sent to an immigration detention center on Christmas Island, or other detention centers on the Australian mainland.



AP
Rescuers load the bodies of victims into an ambulance following a fire that gutted the Bed and Breakfast Pension House in Tuguegarao city, Cagayan province in Northern Philippines early Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010.

where remains of victims, 14 burned beyond recognition, were brought. Some fainted as body bags were brought into a funeral parlor.

"Their families spent fortunes to send these children to school only to see them end that way," Abana told The Associated Press by telephone.

The fire started on the ground floor, apparently fueled by car tires and other combustible materials stored in an automobile parts store. Paint cans also may have been in the building, which was recently renovated, Abana said.

Dozens of guests, roused by the commotion, were rescued by firefighters and police out of the still-smoldering building through the main gate and

fire escapes. Some managed to escape on their own but others may have panicked and got trapped by the flames, Cagayan police chief Mao Aplasca said.

The dead included nine nursing students. The rest were members of the family that owned the hotel, including three children, Aplasca said.

Many of the dead had crammed in bathrooms on the top two floors. One victim had a foot stuck out of a window in a desperate attempt to survive, Abana said.

At least 12 nursing students were taken to hospitals with minor burns. The building was still smoldering when firefighters broke in and scrambled to search

for the 15 victims, police said.

"It's so close to Christmas, we wept when we saw their bodies," Abana told The AP.

A nursing college instructor, Romeo Opido, told police that about 36 nursing students from nearby provinces were at the hotel in Tuguegarao, about 215 miles (350 kilometers) north of Manila. At least 27 escaped and 9 were missing, he said before the bodies were discovered.

Aileen Gonzales, an aunt of one of the students believed to have perished in the fire, said what happened was a twin disaster because her nephew died just days before Christmas and her family had hoped she would pass the nursing

exam and work abroad.

Many Filipino students from middle-income and impoverished families have taken nursing courses in recent years in the hope of landing relatively high-paying jobs abroad. Their massive departure has alarmed officials in the poor Southeast Asian country, which sorely lacks medical workers and hospitals.

Cagayan fire official Neil Caranguian said investigators have not determined the cause of the blaze. Faulty electrical equipment, overcrowding and weak enforcement of safety regulations have been blamed for many deadly fires in the Philippines.

SKorea plans firing drills from border island

YEONPYEONG ISLAND, South Korea (AP)—South Korea ordered residents of front-line islands into bomb shelters as it insisted on pressing forward with live-fire drills near disputed waters Monday despite North Korea's threat to retaliate, sharply spiking tensions.

A dense fog hung over the island, however, and a military official said the weather might delay the artillery exercises until Tuesday.

U.N. diplomats meeting in New York failed to find any solution to ease fears of a new war on the Korean peninsula, nearly a month after the North shelled South Korea's Yeonpyeong Island in retaliation for earlier artillery exercises there. The North has said it would respond even more harshly to any new drills from

the Yellow Sea island.

South Korea's move to launch new drills from Yeonpyeong brought tensions to their highest point since the North's Nov. 23 bombardment, which killed two South Korean marines and two civilians in the North's first attack targeting civilian areas since the 1950-53 Korean War.

South Korean marines on Yeonpyeong, a tiny enclave of fishing communities and military bases within sight of North Korean shores, were to conduct the live-fire drills from the island later Monday, although the exact timing will depend on weather conditions, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Defense Ministry said.

However, the drills likely would be delayed until Tuesday if the weather conditions did not improve, a South Korean Joint

Chiefs of Staff officer said. He spoke on condition of anonymity, citing department rules.

Yeonpyeong residents slowly filed into an underground shelter after authorities announced the drill and huddled on the floor as a South Korean soldier showed them how to use a gas mask, according to footage shot by Associated Press Television News.

"I feel the same as last Nov. 23, when North Korea fired artillery at us," said Oh Guinam, a 70-year-old island resident. "My emotions are all tangled up."

South Korea's military will "immediately and sternly" deal with any North Korean provocation, a Joint Chiefs of Staff officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity, citing department rules.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Chinese premier praises Pakistan's terror fight

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's sacrifices in the global fight against terrorism should be recognized and respected by the international community, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told lawmakers in Islamabad on Sunday. Wen was addressing a joint session of Pakistan's National Assembly on the final day of a state visit that mainly focused on trade and business ties between the longtime Asian allies. During the three-day visit, the two sides agreed to 35 new pacts expected to bring up to \$30 billion dollars of investment to Pakistan over the next five years.

Russian president Medvedev to visit India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Russian President Dmitry Medvedev is set to arrive in India this week, joining a long line of world leaders visiting the rising Asian power in search of trade and investment. The two countries are expected to sign a number of agreements, including the general

framework for Russia's building two more nuclear power plants in southern India. Russia is already constructing two nuclear plants at the same location in Tamil Nadu state. An Indian foreign ministry spokesman said Sunday that talks between Medvedev and India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh are expected to further strengthen and deepen the decades-old close relations that the two countries share.

Random breath test yields 43 pounds of ecstasy

SYDNEY (AP)—Police discovered 43 pounds (19.5 kilograms) of the illegal drug ecstasy during a search of a van after it was stopped to give the driver a random breath test. New South Wales police said Monday that officers found seven boxes of chemical glassware used to make drugs when the van was stopped last Wednesday outside the town of Quirindi. Two Sydney men, both 27, were charged with possessing drug manufacturing apparatus and were granted bail after appearing in court that day.

World

Opposition leaders arrested after riots in capital

MINSK, Belarus (AP)—In the biggest challenge to authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko in 16 years in power, thousands of demonstrators massed outside the main government office to protest alleged vote fraud in Sunday's presidential election, but club-swinging riot police drove them off and beat many.

The violent night left in doubt the next step for Belarus, which is of interest to the Kremlin because of its position as a buffer between Russia and the West. The West, for its part, has been offended by

Lukashenko's harsh rule and his resistance to change.

Three of the candidates who ran against Lukashenko were arrested and the top opposition leader, Vladimir Neklyayev, was forcefully taken from the hospital by unknown men in civilian clothes, activists said.

Neklyayev's aide said seven men wrapped Neklyayev in a blanket on his hospital bed and carried him outside as his wife screamed, locked in a neighboring room. His whereabouts are currently unknown. Neklyayev and two other candidates were severely beaten in clashes with

government forces.

The demonstration and its violent end all happened even before preliminary results were announced. But opposition supporters were convinced that Lukashenko would fake the tally. In previous elections, none of which were judged free and fair by Western observers, Lukashenko tallied 80 percent or more.

This year's election had given tantalizing hints that the repressive political climate might be changing in the ex-Soviet state. Not only were nine candidates allowed to

challenge Lukashenko, they were even given unprecedented access to state broadcast media to conduct debates.

But if Lukashenko had been looking, or trying to look, like he was flirting with democracy, the romance was clearly over within three hours of the polls closing.

The crowd that gathered in central Minsk, estimated by the opposition at tens of thousands, was significantly larger than protesters who massed after the 2006 elections. But those protests were allowed to go on sporadically for a week; Sunday's

didn't make it until midnight.

As riot police beat on their shields to drive the crowd away from the government offices, the defiant crowd matched the rhythmic blows with the chant "We will come back." However, it was unclear how long such bravado could last in the face of harsh crackdowns.

"Repression and arrested have stopped the wave of protests," said candidate Yaroslav Romanchuk. "Street democracy is over."

But anger remains high.

"We had a peaceful protest and it is the authorities who used

force," said Marat Titovets, a 40-year-old engineer. "After Lukashenko spilled blood, he cannot remain in power."

Protesters broke windows and glass doors of the government building, which also houses the Central Election Commission, but they were repelled by riot police waiting inside. Hundreds more riot police and Interior Ministry troops then arrived in trucks and sent most of the demonstrators fleeing. Some tried to hide in the courtyards of nearby apartment buildings, but were bludgeoned by troops waiting inside the courtyards.



AP

An opposition demonstrator walks in front of the riot police officers during a rally in Minsk, Belarus, early Monday, Dec. 20, 2010.

Mexican city devastated by pipeline blast; 27 die

SAN MARTIN TEXMELUCAN, Mexico (AP)—A massive oil pipeline explosion lay waste to parts of a central Mexican city Sunday, incinerating people, cars, houses and trees as gushing crude turned streets into flaming rivers. At least 27 people were killed, 12 of them children, in a disaster authorities blamed on oil thieves.

The blast in San Martin Texmelucan, estimated to have affected a three-mile (five-kilometer) radius, scorched homes and cars and left metal and pavement twisted from the intense heat and in some cases burned to ash.

Relatives sobbed as firefighters pulled charred bodies from the incinerated homes, some of the remains barely more than piles of ashes and bones.

Jose Luis Chavez, 58, who lives 10 blocks from the explosion, said he heard at least two loud booms and saw flames leap more than 30 feet (10 meters) in the air. He said it was as if a bomb had exploded underground.

"The explosions we had were very scary," Chavez said.

Aside from the deaths, at least

52 people were hurt and at least 200 were in shelters after fleeing San Martin, which is about 55 miles (90 kilometers) east of Mexico City. More than 115 homes were scorched, 30 of them destroyed.

The explosion, which happened before dawn Sunday, was apparently caused by thieves trying to steal crude oil, said Valentin Meneses, interior secretary for the state of Puebla, where San Martin is located. Investigators found a hole in the pipeline and equipment for extracting crude, said Laura Gurza, chief of the federal Civil Protection emergency response agency.

"They lost control because of the high pressure with which the fuel exits the pipeline," he said, adding that the oil began to flow down the city's streets and into a nearby river.

Several bodies were found in cars near the location of the leak, but authorities didn't know if the dead were involved in the theft or just there by coincidence. The rupture occurred in an elevated part of the city, sending the crude running down a river bed more than a half mile (1 kilometer), Gurza said.

At some point a spark caused the crude to erupt into flames, though officials didn't know the origin of the spark.

Many of the buildings destroyed were humble two-story cement homes. Gurza said people are not permitted to live near oil pipelines, but Chavez and others indicated they had been in the area for some time.

President Felipe Calderon expressed his condolences to the families of the dead and his support for those injured and affected. He said the federal government would give its full support in investigating who was responsible and bringing them to justice.

Interior Minister Francisco Blake Mora mobilized several federal ministries to help victims with medical care, shelter and recovering their lost homes and property.

The state-owned oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, said in a statement that it had shut down the pipeline. Government authorities said the fire was under control by midday, and fires were burning the remaining crude. The area was without electricity or water.

Europe's snow cancels flights, Lady Gaga show

LONDON (AP)—Stranded travelers slept on makeshift beds at European airports Sunday as wintry weather caused travel havoc, dashing the hopes of those attempting to head away for the holidays by road, rail and air.

It is almost inevitable that some cancellations and delays will continue through this week, potentially causing further disruption for many Christmas travelers, British travel industry group ABTA said.

Heathrow Airport, Europe's busiest hub for air passengers, stopped accepting arrivals Sunday at the start of the Christmas travel rush.

"The domino effect of disruption to services could continue for some days to come," Heathrow spokesman Andrew Teacher said.

Icy conditions curtailed Europe's high speed train services, left cars skidding through slushy streets and saw major events postponed—including music shows and sporting events.

In Paris, a Lady Gaga concert was canceled because trucks delivering sets for the pop diva's extravagant event couldn't get

to the city's Bercy stadium. The show was expected to be rescheduled for Tuesday.

British pop star Lily Allen was among those caught in the travel chaos in London, where several thousand people spent the night on the floors of terminal buildings at the city's major airports. "Bad start to a much needed holiday," Allen said in a post on her Twitter account after her flight was canceled.

About 40 percent of flights were canceled at Frankfurt airport and at Paris' Charles de Gaulle.

Passengers slept in makeshift dormitories at the Paris airport and at Amsterdam's Schiphol, while staff at Heathrow and Gatwick airports in London handed out foam mats and foil blankets to the stranded. Some fashioned improvised beds from clothes, chairs and stacked suitcases.

"Dad are we in Argentina yet?" one elementary school child sobbed, as his father bought sandwiches, playing cards and comic books from a store inside a Heathrow terminal building.

Janos Kalman, a 50-year-old psychiatrist from Szeged in Hungary, said he had braved

a night on a terminal floor at Heathrow after his flight to Budapest was canceled. "I've seen people crying and panicking, and the staff trying to cope with it all," he said.

London subway trains were packed with dejected holiday travelers in search of hotel rooms, while many tourists complained there was little clear information amid the chaotic scenes at the city's airports.

"There seems to be a lot of confusion and I have only seen one Heathrow worker. All the airline desks are shut because it is a Sunday—it's absolutely ridiculous," said Elizabeth Herdridge, who arrived at the airport to learn her flight to Amsterdam had been canceled.

Airports and tour operators acknowledged there would likely be some disruption to flights through next week, with many aircraft currently stuck in the wrong location.

"Inevitably there is always some knock-on effect when there's a situation like this. People will need to consult with their airlines next week to check on their flights," said Sean Tipton, spokesman for Britain's ABTA.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran forces on alert as economic 'surgery' begins

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Security forces flooded Iran's capital in a warning against possible unrest as fuel prices surged 400 percent Sunday under plans to sharply cut government subsidies and ease pressure on an economy struggling with international sanctions. The so-called economic "surgery" has been planned for months, but was repeatedly delayed over worries of a repeat of gas riots in 2007 and serious political infighting during the standoff with the West over the Islamic Republic's nuclear program.

Teenage sailor on solo voyage reaches St. Maarten

PHILIPSBURG, St. Maarten (AP)—A 15-year-old Dutch sailor on Sunday completed the longest leg so far of her attempted circumnavigation of the globe, saying it felt "really weird" to be back on dry land after nearly three weeks out in the ocean. Fifteen-year-old Laura Dekker, aiming to become the youngest person

to sail solo around the world, was in good spirits after completing the 2,200 nautical-mile (2,532 land-mile, 4,074-kilometer) trip from the Cape Verde Islands off West Africa. Dekker anchored Guppy, her 38-foot (11.5-meter) ketch, just outside Simpson Bay Lagoon after what she called "a very nice trip" so far. She later steered it into the lagoon as a crowd gathered at the docks and snapped pictures.

Guatemalan military seizes drug-plagued province

COBAN, Guatemala (AP)—The Guatemalan military declared a state of siege Sunday in a northern province that authorities say has been overtaken by Mexican drug traffickers. The government initiated the monthlong measure in the Alta Verapaz province to reclaim cities that have been taken over by the Zetas drug gang, Ronaldo Robles, a spokesman for Guatemalan President Alvaro Colom, told radio station Emisoras Unidas. "It is to bring peace to the people and recover their confidence in the government," he said.

Overdrive

Chevy Cruze a worthy rival for Corolla, Civic



The 2011 Chevrolet Cruze LTZ seems to have what it takes to impress motorists.

By **TOM INCANTALUPO**
NEWSDAY

It remains to be seen whether the new Chevrolet Cruze will be any more successful than earlier efforts by General Motors to wrench American drivers from their Honda Civics and Toyota Corollas. But it seems to have what it takes.

The Cruze replaces the Cobalt, which replaced the Cavalier. Its cabin is better insulated against wind and tire noise, and the Cruze is wider than its predecessors. The suspension offers an ideal compromise between compliance for ride comfort and

firmness for crisp handling.

Two new four-cylinder engines are available: a 1.8-liter and a 1.4 turbo. With automatic transmission, the 1.8 delivers as much as 34 miles per gallon in highway driving, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, but I averaged just under 28 in my LS tester in three days of mostly highway miles. The 1.4 seems the better choice, producing the same 138 hp. but at much lower engine rpm and delivering 2 mpg more in the city and 1 mpg more on the highway, by EPA estimate. I averaged just under 25 mpg in four days of mostly local

driving in the 1LT tester.

The 1.8 disappoints with its coarseness. The 1.4 is smoother but is afflicted by what seems to be "turbo lag"—a momentary sluggishness in standing-start acceleration. Both testers' six-speed automatic transmissions were sometimes hesitant to downshift for a quick burst of speed.

A higher-mileage model, the Cruze Eco, is due next month with the turbo engine and EPA estimates of 28 mpg city and 42 highway—the latter beating any Corolla and any Civic except the hybrid.

The Cruze interior is attractive and

mostly functional, but both testers' gauges were obscured by annoying reflections in daylight. The Cruze's rear seat offers about an inch and a half more legroom than the Cobalt sedan, just a bit more than a Civic and a bit less than a Corolla, but the Cruze has the biggest trunk at 15 cubic feet. Rear seat backs fold down to accommodate more cargo.

Like the Civic and Corolla, the Cruze is available with leather-upholstered seats, moon roof and other luxury items but, unlike them, with a power driver's seat, too.

Prices start at \$16,995 with a six-

speed stick shift. Add \$925 for automatic. All versions include air-conditioning, power windows and locks, OnStar hardware with a six-month free subscription; tilt and telescoping steering column; and, unique in this price range, rear-seat, side-impact thorax-protecting air bags.

Neither the federal government nor Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has published safety ratings for the Cruze, which went on sale in September. There's no hard data yet on quality either.

NUTS & BOLTS

Two vehicles tested:

Engines: 1.8-liter, four-cylinder; 1.4-liter, four cylinder turbocharged, both 138 hp.

Fuel: Regular

Transmissions: Six-speed automatic, front-wheel drive.

Safety: Ten air bags; front disc, rear drum brakes with anti-lock, stability control; OnStar; daytime running lamps; tire pressure monitoring; rear obstacle detection in 1 LT.

Place of Assembly: Lordstown, Ohio.

Trunk: 15 cubic inches

EPA Fuel Economy Estimates: LS: 22 city/35 highway; 1LT: 24/36

Prices as driven, including freight: LS: \$18,375; 1LT: \$20,600

Bottom Line: Competitive compacts — at last.

Gas prices up with holiday travelers poised to hit the road

By **STEVEN COLE SMITH**
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

ORLANDO, Fla.—Just in time for peak holiday travel season, prices are heading north.

And at least one expert oil analyst is predicting prices will go higher this spring—much higher.

"For many, rising gas prices are especially tough this time of year as they are on the road more with extra shopping trips, holiday events and road trips to visit friends and family," said Marshall L. Doney, AAA Automotive vice president.

It's a national trend. Prices have been creeping up but not exactly surging.

According to AAA's FuelGaugeReport.com, the nation's average price is \$2.984 for a gallon of regular gas. A week ago, it was \$2.975. And last month, it was \$2.893.

Still, it isn't good news for consumers. The U.S., according to AAA, has never spent a Christmas with \$3-a-gallon gas. Here are some answers to questions about what's behind the trend, and what's ahead.

QUESTION: Why are gas prices rising?

ANSWER: The same reasons as earlier this year—a slight rally in the U.S. economy that increased demand, a rise in crude-oil prices, a fairly weak dollar and increased global demand in emerging markets such as China.

Q: How high will they get?

A: Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst for the Oil Price Information Service, said

HOW TO SAVE ON GAS COST

Want to cut your gas costs over the holidays? Here's how:

- Make sure you are carrying no extra weight—do you really need to carry those golf clubs in your trunk to grandma's house?—and drive conservatively, with no jack-rabbit starts.

- For maximum mileage, don't let tune-up intervals exceed the recommendation in the owner's manual.

- The manual will also tell you the suggested octane requirements for gasoline. If your car is rated to run on regular gas, you don't need the more expensive premium, though it isn't a bad idea to run a premium in every fourth or fifth tankful of gas.

- Proper tire pressure is important not only for safety

but for good fuel mileage as well. Under-inflated tires take more energy to turn.

- Websites such as GasPriceWatch.com and GasBuddy.com can help you find cheap gas at stations across the country. Just enter the location where you want to buy gas—by city or ZIP code—and the sites will show you stations in that area, and their prices.

- Some onboard GPS navigation systems and satellite-radio services may have information on area gas stations and their prices. Sirius satellite radio's premium travel-data system (\$5.99 a month extra, but only on Ford products for now) has a link for gasoline-price information, delivered for whatever ZIP code you type in.

\$3 a gallon should be the approximate cap nationally for the holiday season.

Q: Is this December rise unusual?

A: Very unusual, according to Kloza. "Last year," he said, "the bottom of the market occurred on December 14. So to see prices rise this December is definitely unusual." Aside from holiday-related travel, the winter is typically a "down" period for gas prices, as people tend to stay home more and "nest," Kloza said. Jessica Brady of AAA South said we can expect a mild decrease in prices after the holidays, when demand can drop by 300,000 to 400,000 barrels of oil a day. But that's a typical scenario, "and this has been a very atypical year," she said.

Q: Is the demand for heating oil driving up oil prices?

A: No, Kloza said. "Fewer than 10 percent of the homes in the U.S. use heating oil. It's a bit player." The price

rise also can't be attributed to oil lost in the BP spill, he said.

Q: Is the price increase driving consumers to hybrids or high-mileage vehicles?

A: Not yet. Hybrid interest "is cold as the weather," said Ian Riding, new-car sales manager for Sunstate Ford in Orlando. "You really have to see an extended period of very high prices before we'd expect a customer trend." There's a lot of interest in the high-mileage Ford Fiesta, Riding says, but most of it is from younger buyers, and their interest isn't driven by fuel economy. Many manufacturers have guessed wrong. According to Automotive News, Honda was planning to sell 60,000 to 80,000 Insight hybrids a year, but through November had only sold 19,325. All that said, this might be a smart time to buy a hybrid because you can expect a discount.

Q: What's the outlook for prices next year?

A: Kloza said we could be in for a bad spring and summer, a travel season that often sees prices increase anyway. The summer of 2008 gave us our highest gas prices ever. For 2011, Kloza said prices should fall a bit after the first of the year and stay down until the spring, giving us "a false sense of security." By spring, prices are expected to head up—way up. "If we were betting that a gallon of gas would be \$3.35 a gallon on, say, Cinco de Mayo in Florida next year, and you asked me if I wanted the over or under, I'd take the over."

Q: So you expect gas prices to go higher than \$3.35 a gallon?

A: Next spring and summer should see "the second-highest prices in our lifetime," Kloza said. Although he doesn't expect it to, Kloza said gas could hit \$4 a gallon. Gas prices haven't been

that high since July 17, 2008, when regular hit \$4.11 a gallon—the highest recorded national price. Kloza said we could see crude oil trading again for \$100 a barrel, about \$10 more than it is right now.

Q: Why?

A: Kloza said the prices will be driven more by global than domestic demand. Global demand for oil increased by 2 million barrels a day in 2010 over 2009, he said, and he expects another 1- or 2-million barrel increase for 2011. Add in lots of speculating investors, the temporary shuttering of some refineries for seasonal maintenance, some false rumors and dire predictions, "and we'll see gas prices as front-page news this spring."

Q: Do local retailers set the prices?

A: Yes.

Q: Why are some stations' prices lower than others, even when they're in the same neighborhood?

A: Some of the name-brand oil retailers may have expensive advertising campaigns and a larger infrastructure to support, whereas a smaller independent does not. Also, gasoline prices are often set for other reasons. A big-box store such as Wal-Mart or a buyers' club such as Sam's Club, Costco or BJ's may be more interested in getting customers into the parking lot than making a profit off gasoline. Same thing for a convenience store that has low gas prices in hopes you'll go inside and buy something else.

Focus

Voyager 1 nearing the edge

Launched in 1977, NASA’s unmanned spacecraft is on the verge of leaving the solar system, more than 10 billion miles from Earth.

Mission

Explore solar system beyond outer planets and to the limits of the sun’s sphere of influence

Voyager 1

- Since 2004 has been exploring a region where solar wind slows
- Readings show wind slowed to zero; spacecraft nearing edge of system
- May make the jump into interstellar space within the next five years



Voyager 1

Separate paths

Nuclear-powered Voyager 1 and its twin Voyager 2 toured Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, then went in different directions; Voyager 1 veered north, Voyager 2 headed south



Voyager 1

- Traveling 38,000 mph (61,155 kph)
- 10.8 billion miles (17.4 billion km) from the sun



Voyager 2

- Traveling 35,000 mph (56,327 kph)
- 8.8 billion miles (14.2 billion km) from the sun

© 2010 MCT
Source: NASA

Voyager 1 nearing the edge of the solar system

By THOMAS H. MAUGH II
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Voyager 1, the little spacecraft that could, is nearing the edge of the solar system and continuing to prove theorists wrong about solar wind—the massive outflow of particles produced by the sun.

The tiny spacecraft, launched 33 years ago, is now 10.8 billion miles from Earth and has reached the region of the solar system where the hot ionized gas, or plasma, emitted by the sun is ramming into the cold gas and dust of interstellar space and changing direction, curling around to envelope the solar system in a giant cloud called the heliosphere.

As a result, the solar wind is no longer going in the same direction as Voyager, but virtually perpendicular to it, and the spacecraft is actually measuring a small inward speed of the ionized gas, said the California Institute of Technology’s Edward Stone, the Voyager 1 project scientist.

Researchers first detected that inward speed in June, when Voyager was about 10.6 billion miles from Earth, but have taken measurements for another four months to ensure that they had not simply encountered an area of localized turbulence, said Tom Krimigis of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in La Canada Flintridge, Calif., the principal investigator for the instrument that collects the solar wind data.

Krimigis presented the data Tuesday

at a San Francisco meeting of the American Geophysical Union.

Once the solar wind crashes into the interstellar medium and circles back in the heliosphere, it eventually forms a giant tail like a comet before dissipating into the void, Stone said. Voyager has been in this region for six years, traveling about 35,000 mph, he said, “and I expect it will be there for another four.”

Previous models of the solar wind predicted that it would drop off sharply once it encountered the interstellar medium, “but it hasn’t dropped off a cliff,” Krimigis said.

The models had also predicted that many years ago Voyager would have crossed a region called the termination shock, where the solar wind dramatically slows down. But that didn’t occur until 2004, he said.

“The track record between theory and observation is essentially 0-for-theory,” he said.

That poor showing doesn’t faze Stone. “This is the first time we have actually had data to inform our models and better understand how the sun is interacting with (the) outside,” he said, and that should help scientists build much better models.

Krimigis added that researchers might alter the path of Voyager to send it into an area where the solar wind is being funneled by its collision with the interstellar medium. At its current distance from the Earth, it takes about 15.5 hours to send a command to the spacecraft and a similar time to receive an acknowledgment.

Voyager 1 and its little sister, Voyager 2, were launched in 1977 to tour the outer planets of the solar system. Voyager 2 is currently heading in a different direction at 38,000 mph and is 8.8 billion miles from Earth. “There is no doubt” that both of the vessels will leave the heliosphere, Stone said. “The only question is, will they have electrical power” when they do?

The Voyagers are powered by the radioactive isotope plutonium-238. As long as the instruments survive, power will remain available to at least some of them until about 2020. “They have been remarkably durable,” he said.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED
Husband, Father and Grand- Father
FELIX SABLAN FLAWAU

Also known as “Leling” or “Paka”

Born on December 05, 1937 and called to eternal rest on December 17, 2010

Survived by:
Loving Wife:
Children:

Rita Castro Flawau
Antonia & Noli Doromal (Storm, Kish)
Raymond & Macrina Castro (Rachel & Gaylord, Sherlynn & Charles, Felix, Maria, Roberto, Chris Joe, Raymond Jr., Heley Nelly & Carl Atalig (Jesse & Jaylynn, Jameca, Herman & Anna, Hilary & Tana, Joaquin, Jojo Berlinda & Jesus Quitano (Joseph & Corletta, Charlene & Luis, Abraham & Trisha, Babylynn, Jessielyn)

Reared Kids:

Doll & Charlie Boddy & Children
Ricardo & Clarita Barcinas & Children
Elizabeth Barcinas & Pedro Hocog & Children
Perry & Ruth Taimano & Children
Rhonda & Alex Araza
Terrence & Imee Taimanao & Children
Becky & David Cuevas
Gregory Jr. & Bertha Camacho & Children
Joseph & Lynn Atalig & Children
Noberto & Karen Flawau (Melisa & Children, Brian Flawau & Children)
Abel S. Barcinas & Children
Rosa A. Taitano & Children
Special Member of the Family: Violeta Rapato, and numerous nieces, nephews & cousins.

He now joins his:

Parents: Jacoba Sablan & Isidro Gofigir Flawau
Sisters: Luisa S. Flawau, Lydia F. Wood
In-Laws: Jesus Villagomez & Ana Taimanao Castro
Brothers & Sisters In-Laws: Maria & Domingo Atalig
Dolores & Juan Muna
Lucia C. Barcinas
Martha Castro
Pedro Taitano

Son In-Law:

Jose T. King

Daily Holy Rosary is being held at CHC Morgue and San Francisco De Borja Church (ROTA) every 7:00 pm. Viewing will be at CHC Morgue on December 23, 2010 from 7:30 am to 10:00 am followed by the mass. His remains will leave CHC Morgue at 9:00 am on December 24, 2010 to Rota. Final viewing will be on December 28, 2010 at 8:00 am to 10:00 am followed by a mass and immediately by the interment services at San Jose Cemetery SongSong Village, Rota.

Thank you.
Ginen I Familia



Life & Style

FOA production injects chuckles to holiday tradition

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Friends of the Arts gave islanders a rib-tickling holiday performance with the staging of *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of a Christmas Carol*.

The play, written by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin, was presented at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater from Dec. 17 to 19.

The highly entertaining and very timely play within a play is loosely based on the classic novel written by Charles Dickens but full of comical elements and amusing twists.

The play follows the misadventures and mishaps of a women's amateur theater group as they take a shot at presenting Dickens' Christmas classic which, "regardless of the disasters that befall them, in stiff-upper-lip fashion, they refuse to admit that everything is working against them."

Linda Wingenbach directed the talented cast that included Diane Esplin, Marilou Conner, Susan Fishman-Tudor, Harold Easton, Lyndsay Esplin, and Melanie Choe.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Ebenezer Scrooge, played by Marilou Conner, wears his sleeping hat as he talks to Gordon, played by Harold Easton, who holds the door prop.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

A member of the audience joins the play by reading a line with the actors on stage.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Marilou Conner, left, as Ebenezer Scrooge while Lyndsay Esplin acts as Fred.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Ebenezer Scrooge gestures in one of the scenes.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

▲ Harold Easton, right, holds Christmas gifts in one of the scenes. Easton played the character of Gordon Pugh, the ever-helpful stage manager of the drama guild.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Marilou Conner, left, takes on the character of Thelma Greenwood, former president of the Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society and plays the role of Ebenezer Scrooge.

In Loving Memory †Rosa Cruz Reyes

March 14, 1941 - December 17, 2010

was called home by our Heavenly Father at the age of 69.

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: †Vicente Taitingfong. Cruz/+Ana Cruz Manalo
Parents-in-laws: †Vicente Reyes/†Maria SN. Reyes
Brothers: †Juan L/†Magdalena D. Cruz, †Pedro L. Cruz, †Vicente L. Cruz
Sisters: †Maria C. Masga, †Juanita C. Baletto
Brothers and Sisters-in-law: †Rosamistica N. Cruz, †Nicolas Baletto, †Prudencio SN. Reyes, †Joaquin SN. Reyes, †Jose SN/†Catalina C. Reyes, †Remedio R. †Ignacio Dela Cruz, †Estefania SN/†Tobias Muna, †Edward B/†Maximina R. Flores, †Ursula SN. Reyes, †Alfonso SN. Reyes,

Her love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of her:

Husband: Donicio San Nicolas Reyes
Children/Spouses & Families:
Bernadita C. Reyes/Michael/Ritalynn (Tomika), Sylvestre/Christine
Ursula C. Reyes/Michael Viches - Dimitri, Anisia
Ana R/Thomas Erickson - Roque/Diane (Daisy Mae, Dennis), Ringo, Rino, Melvalyn/Carlos Aldan (Susana, Carlos, Carwin), Mercy
Joan R/Gilbert M. Cabrera - Gilbert, Trinidad/Conrad Cruz (Colton, Conrad Jr), Rosa Ann (Kiwalani, Kailani), Ana, Jilvany (Glandon), Juan
Marie C. Reyes/Edward DLC. Shai - Eldred/Paulina (Noelani, Damian Drake), Mildred, Elgene, Melgirene (Edward Jade)
Donicio C/Trinidad C. Reyes - Lawrence Sayer "Kojo", Kiara
Vincent C/Nieves U. Reyes - Donicio, Vincent, Nicky
Joe John C. Reyes/Aileen SN. Taitano - Dorsha (Jaydoria Rolyana) Moses, Joe John Jr. Becky Ann

Brother/Sister/Spouse: Manuel L. Cruz, Estella C/Henry DLG. San Nicolas
Brother/Sisters-in-law: Leon G. Masga, Maria Q. Cruz, Anuncia A. Reyes

Additionally survived by numerous relatives and friends.

Daily rosary is being prayed nightly at the Tinian Health Center at 8:00 p.m. Last respects will be paid on Thursday, December 23, 2010, at the San Jose Church at 7:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 am. Interment will follow thereafter at the San Jose Public Cemetery where our beloved †Rosa will be laid in her final resting place.

Un Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen I Koraason-mami

I Familia

Death and Funeral Announcement

Apolinar Escota

BETTER KNOWN AS "SCOTT"

BORN TO LIFE ON JULY 23, 1938
AND WAS CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL REST
ON DECEMBER 15, 2010

We the Family, Humbly invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Daily Mass of intention is being offered at 5:00 a.m. at the San Vicente Church.

On Wednesday, December 22, 2010, viewing and last respects will be held at the CHC Chapel at 8:00 a.m. followed by Mass at 10:00 a.m. Interment service will follow immediately at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and Salamat Po.

Children and Family



Bones found on island might be Amelia Earhart's

NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—The three bone fragments turned up on a deserted South Pacific island that lay along the course Amelia Earhart was following when she vanished. Nearby were several tantalizing artifacts: some old makeup, some glass bottles and shells that had been cut open.

Now scientists at the University of Oklahoma hope to extract DNA from the tiny bone chips in tests that could prove Earhart died as a castaway after failing in her 1937 quest to become the first woman to fly around the world.

"There's no guarantee," said Ric Gillespie, director of the International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, a group of aviation enthusiasts in Delaware that found the pieces of bone this year while on an expedition to Nikumaroro Island, about 1,800 miles south of Hawaii.

"You only have to say you

have a bone that may be human and may be linked to Earhart and people get excited. But it is true that, if they can get DNA, and if they can match it to Amelia Earhart's DNA, that's pretty good."

It could be months before scientists know for sure—and it could turn out the bones are from a turtle. The fragments were found near a hollowed-out turtle shell that might have been used to collect rain water, but there were no other turtle parts nearby.

Earhart's disappearance on July 2, 1937, remains one of the 20th century's most enduring mysteries. Did she run out of fuel and crash at sea? Did her Lockheed Electra develop engine trouble? Did she spot the island from the sky and attempt to land on a nearby reef?

"What were her last moments like? What was she doing? What happened?" asked Robin

Jensen, an associate professor of communications at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., who has studied Earhart's writings and speeches.

Since 1989, Gillespie's group has made 10 trips to the island, trying each time to find clues that might help determine the fate of Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan.

Last spring, volunteers working at what seemed to be an abandoned campsite found one piece of bone that appeared to be from a neck and another unknown fragment dissimilar to bird or fish bones. A third fragment might be from a finger. The largest of the pieces is just over an inch long.

The area was near a site where native work crews found skeletal remains in 1940. Bird and fish carcasses suggested Westerners had prepared meals there.



This photo provided Dec. 17, 2010, by The International Group For Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR) shows TIGHAR Team Physician Dr. Jon Overholt screening excavated material for bones at the dig site on the uninhabited island of Nikumaroro, in the South Pacific, where researchers say they found bone fragments that could help prove that famed aviator Amelia Earhart died as a castaway after failing in her quest to circumnavigate the globe. Researchers said Friday, Dec. 17, 2010, that the University of Oklahoma hopes to extract DNA from the bones.

"This site tells the story of how someone or some people attempted to live as castaways," Gillespie said Friday in an interview with The Associated Press. "These fish weren't eaten like Pacific Islanders" eat fish.

Millions of dollars have been spent in failed attempts to learn what happened to Earhart, a Kansas native declared dead by a California court in early 1939.

The official version says Earhart and Noonan ran out of fuel and crashed at sea while flying from Lae, New Guinea, to Howland Island, which had a landing strip and fuel.

Gillespie's book "Finding Amelia: The True Story of the Earhart Disappearance," and "Amelia Earhart's Shoes," written by four volunteers from the aircraft group, suggest the pair landed on the reef and survived, perhaps for months, on scant food and rainwater.

Gillespie, a pilot, said the aviator would have needed only about 700 feet of unobstructed space to land because her plane would have been traveling only about 55 mph at touchdown.

"It looks like she could have landed successfully on the reef surrounding the island. It's very flat and smooth," Gillespie said. "At low tide, it looks like this place is surrounded by a parking lot."

However, Gillespie said, the plane, even if it landed safely, would have been slowly dragged into the sea by the tides. The waters off the reef are 1,000 to 2,000 feet deep. His group needs \$3 million to \$5 million for a deep-sea dive.

The island is on the course

year also suggested the presence of Westerners at the isolated island site:

■ Someone carried shells ashore before cutting them open and slicing out the meat. Islanders cut the meat out at sea.

■ Bottles found nearby were melted on the bottom, suggesting they had been put into a fire, possibly to boil water. (A Coast Guard unit on the island during World War II would have had no need to boil water.)

■ Bits of makeup were found. The group is checking to see which products Earhart endorsed and whether an inventory lists specific types of makeup carried on her final trip.

■ A glass bottle with remnants of lanolin and oil, possibly hand lotion.

In 2007, the group found a piece of a pocket knife but didn't know whether it was left by the Coast Guard or castaways. This year, it found the shattered remains of the knife, suggesting someone had smashed it to extract the blades. Gillespie speculated a castaway used a blade to make a spear to stab shallow-water fish like those found at the campsite.

Following Earhart's disappearance, distress signals picked up by distant ships pointed back to the area of Nikumaroro Island, but while pilots passing over saw signs of recent habitation, the island was crossed off the list as having been searched, Gillespie said.

In 1940, a British overseer on the island recovered a partial human skeleton, a woman's shoe and an empty sextant box at what appeared to be a former campsite, littered with turtle, clamshell and bird remains.

Thinking of Earhart, the overseer sent the items to Fiji, where a British doctor decided they belonged to a stocky European or mixed-blood male, ruling out any Earhart connection.

The bones later vanished, but in 1998, Gillespie's group located the doctor's notes in London. Two other forensic specialists reviewed the doctor's bone measurements and agreed they were more "consistent with" a female of northern European descent, about Earhart's age and height.

On their own visits to the island, volunteers recovered an aluminum panel that could be from an Electra, another piece of a woman's shoe and a "cat's paw" heel dating from the 1930s; another shoe heel, possibly a man's, and an oddly cut piece of clear Plexiglas.

The sextant box might have been Noonan's. The woman's shoe and heel resemble a blucher-style oxford seen in a pre-takeoff photo of Earhart. The plastic shard is the exact thickness and curvature of an Electra's side window.

The body of evidence is intriguing, but Gillespie insists the team is "constantly agonizing over whether we are being dragged down a path that isn't right."

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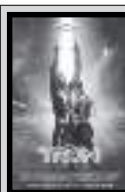
Yogi Bear

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
 Mon through Tues 4:00 7:00

Justin Timberlake, Dan Aykroyd
 Children's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Hanna-Barbera's beloved picnic basket-stealing bear makes his big-screen debut in this live-action/animated mix children's pic from Ash Brannon, co-director of Surf's Up. The Tooth Fairy writing team of Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia provide the screenplay, which will center around CG Yogi and Boo Boo as they interact with live actors in Jellystone Park.



Tron: Legacy

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
 Mon through Tues 4:05 7:05

Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges
 Science, Fiction • Rated PG

Synopsis

The Master Control Program is booted back up in this revamped Tron continuation that sees the return of original star Jeff Bridges. Original director and co-writer Steven Lisberger is onboard to produce the new film, written by Lost screenwriters Eddie Kitsis and Adam Horowitz, and directed by commercial director Joseph Kosinski. Garrett Hedlund, Olivia Wilde, and Beau Garrett headline the cast in the Walt Disney production.



How Do You Know?

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
 Mon through Tues 4:10 7:10

Reese Witherspoon, Owen Wilson
 Comedy • Rated PG 13



Fighter

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
 Mon through Tues 4:30 7:30

Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale
 Drama • Rated R



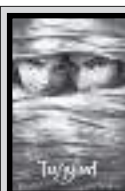
The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
 Mon through Tues 4:15 7:15

Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes
 Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Upon returning to Narnia to join Prince Caspian for a voyage on the majestic royal vessel known as The Dawn Treader, Lucy, Edmund, and their cousin Eustace encounter merfolk, dragons, dwarves, and a wandering band of lost warriors. As the edge of the world draws near, their remarkable adventure at sea sails toward an exciting, yet uncertain, conclusion.



Tangled

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
 Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
 Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
 Mon through Tues 4:20 7:20

Mandi Moore, Zachary Levi
 Children's, Family • Rated PG



Unstoppable

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
 Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
 Mon through Tues 4:25 7:25

Denzel Washington, Chris Pine
 Action • Rated PG 13

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'Tron: Legacy' uploads at No. 1 with \$43.6M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jeff Bridges' sci-fi sequel "Tron: Legacy" has leaped to the top of the box-office grid with a \$43.6 million opening weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Disney release reboots the story line started in Bridges' 1982 tale "Tron," in which his character is hurtled into a deadly virtual reality known as the Grid. The movie co-stars Garrett Hedlund and Olivia Wilde.

Though quaint by today's standards, the computer-graphic effects in the original "Tron" were cutting-edge at the time. Yet the movie was a box-office underachiever whose following somehow swelled in the intervening decades in a way that perplexed even the studio's executives.

"I sure wish I knew, because there is a very, very committed core group of people who just love that movie, and they have fanned the opening-weekend grosses," said Chuck Viane, head of distribution for Disney.

Other newcomers premiered with modest to poor receipts, continuing a sluggish end to Hollywood's year.

The weekend proved no picnic for Dan Aykroyd's family flick "Yogi Bear," which fell flat at a weak No. 2 with \$16.7 mil-

1. **"Tron: Legacy,"** \$43.6 million.
2. **"Yogi Bear,"** \$16.7 million.
3. **"The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader,"** \$12.4 million.
4. **"The Fighter,"** \$12.2 million.
5. **"The Tourist,"** \$8.7 million.
6. **"Tangled,"** \$8.68 million.
7. **"Black Swan,"** \$8.3 million.
8. **"How Do You Know,"** \$7.6 million.
9. **"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1,"** \$4.8 million.
10. **"Unstoppable,"** \$1.8 million.

lion. The Warner Bros. release features the voices of Aykroyd and Justin Timberlake in an adaptation of the TV cartoon about the picnic-basket-thieving bear.

With children out of school over the holidays, Warner Bros. executives hope "Yogi Bear" will hold up well through Christmas and New Year's.

"We wish it had been a bit higher, but we'll catch up as we get going," said Jeff Goldstein, the studio's general sales manager.

The previous weekend's top movie, 20th Century Fox's "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," fell to No. 3 with \$12.4 million, raising its total to \$42.7 million.

Mark Wahlberg and Christian Bale's acclaimed boxing

drama "The Fighter" had a so-so expansion nationwide after a stellar debut in limited release the previous weekend for the tale based on the life of real-life fighter Micky Ward. Released by Paramount, "The Fighter" came in at No. 4 with \$12.2 million.

Reese Witherspoon's love-triangle romance "How Do You Know" was a dud with just \$7.6 million, the Sony release opening at No. 8. The movie co-stars Owen Wilson, Paul Rudd and Jack Nicholson.

Overall revenues slipped to \$134 million, down 2.6 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Avatar" debuted with \$77 million on its way to becoming the biggest modern blockbuster with a \$2.8 billion

worldwide haul.

Considering the huge gap between the "Avatar" revenues and those for "Tron: Legacy," Hollywood's general business held up fairly well because of this year's diverse undercard of new movies and holdovers.

"We weren't down that badly," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "Last year, it was pretty much that one film. 'Avatar' so heavily dominated that marketplace, which was great for 'Avatar,' but for the other movies there wasn't much there."

Prince calls celebs on stage to party at NYC show

NEW YORK (AP)—Sherri Sheppard finally got her wish to spend the night with Prince—but she had to share him with a few other celebrities, including Spike Lee, Naomi Campbell, Jamie Foxx and her "View" co-host Whoopi Goldberg.

Prince called Sheppard and a host of other stars on stage Saturday night in his sold-out concert at Madison Square Garden. Lee played the tambourine as Alicia Keys, Jamie Foxx, Professor Cornel West, talk-show host Tavis Smiley and others danced on-stage with Prince and Sheila E. to the hit "A Love Bizarre."

Prince recently made a surprise appearance on "The View" that left Sheppard swooning.

Prince pretended to bolt from the stage when he mentioned Sheppard's name, but then slyly told her: "Come on, Sherri. Dance with me, please. I wanna see what you really do."

The concert was part of Prince's "Welcome 2 America" performances in the New York City area; this was his first night at the famed Garden.

Although Prince released a new album overseas this year, Saturday's concert was classic Prince. He sang memorable tunes like "Kiss," "1999," "Let's Go Crazy" and "Purple Rain"—the only thing missing from the old days were the heels he used to wear. (He strutted and danced on stage in more sensible flats.)

Prince gave fans a surprise as he dusted off some of the more sexier songs from his classic catalog, including "Cream," "Shhh" and "U Got The Look."

The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer hadn't sung many of those songs in years since he became a Jehovah's Witness. He didn't get too wild though and didn't pull out songs from his once- raunchy past.

Prince has two more dates left at Madison Square Garden—one later in December and another in January. Judging from the extended standing ovation he received Saturday night, he's looking forward to coming back. As he left the stage, he quipped: "This is my house now."

Parents who lost a daughter are now in a different place

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My beautiful 20-year-old daughter was killed in a car accident. I am writing this not only for myself, but for all parents who have lost a child, and to all of the wonderful people who asked, "What can I do for you?"

At the time there wasn't much anyone could do to help, but after two years I have an answer: Accept me for who I am NOW.

When Rachel came into my life, it changed me profoundly. Losing her did the same. Her father and I work hard to honor her memory, but we will never "get over it" to the degree of being who we were before. I am different now. In some ways—I think—better. I am kinder, more patient, more appreciative of small things, but I am not as outgoing nor as quick to laugh.

I know people mean well when they encourage me to get on with my life, but this IS my life. My priorities have changed. My expectations of what my future will hold have changed. Please extend to me again the offer of "anything I can do" and, please, accept me as I am now.

DIFFERENT NOW IN RIVERVIEW, FLA.

DEAR DIFFERENT NOW: Please accept my profound sympathy for the tragic loss of your daughter. I hope that your letter will help anyone who doesn't understand that the death of a child is the most devastating loss parents can suffer and that the experience is life-changing. They may get beyond it, but they never get "over" it. To expect that they would is unrealistic, because it's a wound that may become less visible but never goes away.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I struggled for years to have children. After many attempts and disappointments we have exhausted all our options. It has been extremely difficult for me to accept.

My husband recently found his daughter from a previous relationship. He knew she existed, but his ex had kept the girl from him for many years. He is now ecstatic and wants to spend every minute with her. He tells me how happy he is to have a daughter. I want to be supportive, but it kills me.

The girl appears to have no desire to have me in her life. I don't know if I'll ever be able to view her as my stepdaughter. Yes, she's my husband's—but she is his, not "ours."

I accept that my feelings are somewhat selfish, but I am not sure how to deal with them. I have been in and out of counseling with no change. Please help.

NOT A "REAL" MOM

DEAR NOT: Stop beating yourself up for having unpleasant feelings. If your description is accurate, your husband has allowed his daughter to "clique" you out. While it's understandable that because of their long separation his daughter could be fixated on him and vice versa, he should let her know that both of you will love her if she'll give you the chance.

Look at it from her perspective. If she's a young woman, she is dealing with a lot of emotions right now. Try to be patient, treat her warmly when you see her, and give her a chance to get to know you. Good relationships aren't hatched fully formed; they take time to build.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Country singer Josh Turner and wife have 3rd child

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country singer Josh Turner and his wife are the parents of their third child, another boy.

According to a news release Friday from his record label, Crawford Marion was born Monday night, joining brothers Hampton, now 4, and Colby, 17 months. Crawford Marion weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces.

Turner's hits include "Why Don't We Just Dance."

Prince Harry pays tribute to Berlin Wall victims

BERLIN (AP)—Britain's Prince Harry paid tribute Sunday to the people killed trying to escape communist East Germany across the Berlin Wall, and also made a private visit to the German capital's Holocaust memorial.

The 26-year-old prince laid a wreath at a memorial in the German capital's Bernauer Strasse, which contains one of the few remaining sections of the Berlin Wall.

It was accompanied by a handwritten message that read: "For all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in pursuit of freedom. Harry."

Researchers estimate that 136 people were killed while trying to cross the Berlin Wall between its building in 1961 and 1989, when East Germany opened its border.

Harry also spent more than an hour at the memorial to the Holocaust's 6 million Jewish victims—a field of 2,700 gray slabs, situated close to the capital's signature Brandenburg Gate, which opened to the public in 2005.

Harry toured the museum under the memorial, meeting staff and a Holocaust survivor, a spokesman for the prince said. He wanted to keep the visit private "given the poignancy of the



Britain's Prince Harry places a wreath during his visit of the Bernauer Strasse Wall Memorial in Berlin, Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010.

place," he added.

The prince was in Berlin for a television fundraising gala Saturday night at which he was honored for his charity and humanitarian work.

The German president's wife, Bettina Wulff, presented Harry the Golden Heart statuette on Saturday at the country's largest TV charity gala, "A Heart for Children."

The 26-year-old is patron of several children's and humanitarian aid charities. He also co-founded an organization—Sentebale—to help young people in the African country of Lesotho. Wulff highlighted his work there.

Harry said he felt "hugely humble" to win the award. He

added that "compared to so many people who devote their whole lives to restoring hope to children around the world, I have done very little."

Harry said the award would encourage Sentebale and others in Lesotho "to redouble our efforts."

On Sunday, he also visited the Brandenburg Gate, a symbol of Germany's Cold War division and its reunification.

The prince, the third in line to the British throne, has shed a party-loving, bad-boy image over recent years.

In January 2005, Harry apologized after being pictured in a newspaper at a costume party dressed as a Nazi, complete with a swastika armband.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



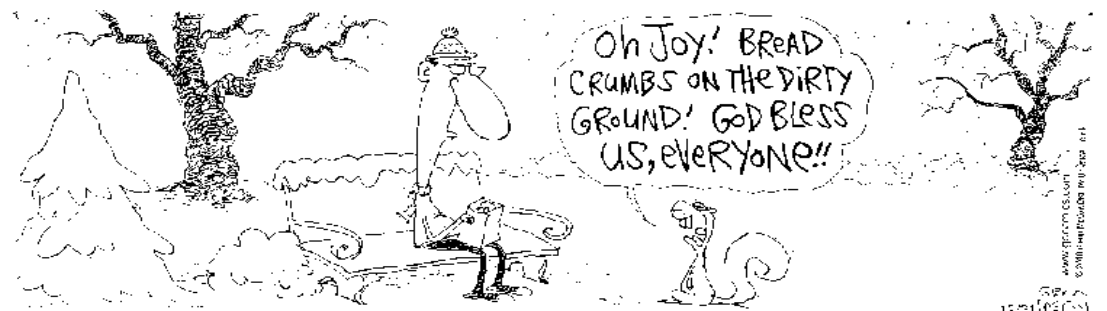
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Grouch
5 — Abby
9 Old airline initials
12 Stereo alternative
13 Fairy-tale villain
14 Hairpiece
15 David Lynch series
17 Single
18 Poet
19 Elephant's ivory
21 Station
24 Fortune's partner
25 Mideast nation
26 Sky-walker's story
30 Next-to-last Greek letter
31 Minimum
32 Skater
33 Three-striper

DOWN

1 Nash-ville-based cable channel
2 Tier
3 Blackbird
4 Chocolate-coated treat
5 Active one
6 "Zoands!"
7 Noah's boat
8 Take it from the top
9 Small car
10 Flirtatious gesture
11 A long time
16 Sajak or Sumner
20 Diggers' grp.
21 Quick swims
22 Gaelic
23 Found partners
24 Rapid
26 Connery or Penn
27 Bronzed, at the beach
28 Carry on
29 Location
31 Hero's hero
34 Day— colors
35 Attractive
37 Adjective suffix
38 Lotion additive
39 Transaction
40 Elmer's prey
41 Help a hood
44 Praise in verse
45 Life story, for short
46 Wapiti
47 Coloring agent

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kiefer Sutherland, 44; Ray Romano, 53; Samuel L. Jackson, 62; Jane Fonda, 73

Happy Birthday: Don't take on responsibilities that do not belong to you. You must be firm about what you will and will not do this year if you want to move forward with the projects, people and interests that are most important. Cut back in some areas so you can nurture the friendships and relationships that mean the most to you. Your numbers are 4, 6, 18, 20, 26, 32, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let the little things get to you. Anger is a waste of time. If you really want to get to the bottom of something that is bothering you, open, honest communication is all that's required. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Think about what might please you and you will come up with the perfect surprise for someone you love. Lots of traveling about and communication with friends and relatives will help you firm up your plans for end-of-year festivities. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of money matters and the little things that you promised to do for others. Set your goals for the upcoming year. Tell someone special exactly how you feel. Touch base with people you don't get to see often. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotions will surface and greater involvement with your peers, friends and lover will help raise your spirits. A makeover or purchasing something that will boost your confidence or

make you feel particularly good should be scheduled for late in the day. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone will be easily offended if you aren't sensitive about a recent situation. A secret meeting or talks will leave you in a difficult position if someone asks you specifically to discuss such matters. Use your imagination to avoid direct answers. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't look back or worry about what's already come and gone. Take advantage of what's ahead of you. Changes at home and within your relationships appear to be favorable and can get you moving in a positive and productive direction. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stick to what you know and do best. Refrain from letting someone you live with pressure you into something you don't feel right about doing. A love relationship from your past will remind you of a situation you are facing now. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't take on someone else's responsibilities when you should be working toward your own objectives. Participate in events that allow you to mingle with people having common goals and interests. Learn from your past and you will excel. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen carefully. Say as little as possible. There are too many variables involved for you to jump in and make statements or rash decisions. Your courtesy will pay off. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's OK to be passionate about something you are doing or believe in or to strive to do something special or different. Don't let any criticism stand in your way. Be your own judge. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Use your ingenuity and you will come up with a brilliant idea that will please and impress. Don't let an old partner back into your life when you should be moving forward. It's time to develop new relationships. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Uncertainty will lead to a poor decision regarding work. Don't make a move that is based on false assumptions. Focus on home, family and your personal life. Good fortune, gifts and positive results will come your way. *****

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and will internalize what others say and do. You are serious about your goals and stand by your word. You are intent on doing what's best.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7 9

4

1 3 7 2 8

8 4 3 2

7 4 5 3 8

3 1 7 5

2 7 9 6 1

2

4 7

Difficulty Level ★★

12/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

4	2	9	1	3	7	5	6	8
8	6	7	4	9	5	1	3	2
1	3	5	8	2	6	7	9	4
6	4	2	7	1	9	3	8	5
9	8	1	2	5	3	4	7	6
7	5	3	6	8	4	2	1	9
2	9	6	5	7	1	8	4	3
3	7	8	9	4	2	6	5	1
5	1	4	3	6	8	9	2	7

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letter letters spell the Wonderword.

HOLIDAY OFFICE PARTIES

Solution: 7 letters

W E W C I S U M I I R H V D D E
I N V I T E A C E O E C E H Z
S S A E N E E R T N L C N G I
H R E L N E E E U I O L N U H
E A S M P T K E H R S C Y A P
S I S S A O G O A E I A S L D
E S C A G L T I D R N E O L
K E B R N I I T E G E C L F I
A I A O D O I R N T N D D F G
C K G A N V B I R S N I D I H
T O Y S I U L E O A I N I C T
I O F T F O S C B X D N R E S
U C S F R S I G A M I N G L E
R E E A E A S T N E M A N R O
F T C D L E P L I A T K C O C

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12/21

Bard, Boss, Buffet, Caroling, Caterer, Cider, Cocktail, Coffee, Cookies, Dance, Decorations, Dessert, Dinner, Egg nog, Ever, Feast, Festivities, Fruitsakes, Games, Holiday, Holly, Invite, Karaoke, Laugh, Lights, Mingle, Music, Office, Ornaments, Party, Plan, Prize, Pursh, Race, Riddles, Song, Social, Speech, Taxi, Tree, Venue, Wine, Wishes

Yesterday's Answer: Classical

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STUMPED?

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strength joy!**

Saipan Tribune

"I want to meet Snow White!"

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**MARIANAS PUBLIC
LAND TRUST,**
Plaintiff,
vs.
**YVONNE A. ATALIG
and GODEL
OMENGEAR,**
Defendants

**Civil Action
No.
10-0254-CV**

**AMENDED
SUMMONS**

**TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED
DEFENDANTS YVONNE A. ATALIG
and GODEL OMENGEAR:**

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED
TO APPEAR** by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Jimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres, attorney for Plaintiff at Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950;** and in case of failure to do so, judgement will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT for FORECLOSURE, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this ____ day of October, 2010.

Clerk of Court

Kinsiano and Justina Kumuch
P.O. Box 506171
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 322-0263

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE)
MATTER OF)
THE PETITION)
TO APPOINT)
GENERAL)
GUARDIANSHIP)
FOR:)

DAVIAN KUMUCH)
Minor Child)

by)

ANTHONIA)
ERLET and)
FRANSON)
ELIEISER)
Petitioners.)

**FCD GU
CIVIL ACTION
NO. 10-0610**

**NOTICE OF
HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition to Appoint a Legal Guardian for the above-named minor child by Kinsiano and Justina Kumuch Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Kenneth Govendo on the 17th day of January, 2010 at 1:30 pm or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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Find today's solution in this section

Jackson scores on punt return to lead Eagles



EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP)—DeSean Jackson scored on a 65-yard punt return on the final play of the game and the Philadelphia Eagles scored 28 points in the final 7:28 to beat the New York Giants 38-31 and take over first place in the NFC East.

Emphasizing his candidacy for the most valuable player award, Michael Vick threw for two touchdowns and ran for another in the incredible late rally that all but clinched the division for the Eagles (10-4) and left Giants coach Tom Coughlin so angry he threw his notes as Jackson backed into the end zone.

Philadelphia swept the season series with New York (9-5) and only needs to win one of its final two games or have New York lose one of its two.

Atlanta clinched a playoff spot with the Giants' loss.

Eli Manning threw four touchdown passes, including an 8-yarder to Kevin Boss with 8:17 to play to help the Giants open a 31-10 lead.

Colts 34, Jaguars 24

In Indianapolis, Indiana, Peyton Manning threw two touchdown passes and Donald Brown ran for another score as Indianapolis stayed in the playoff hunt.

The Colts (8-6) share the AFC South lead with Jacksonville (8-6) and can clinch a seventh division title in eight years by winning their last two games.

Jacksonville had a chance to secure the title with a victory, but again failed to sweep the season series. The Jaguars have never won two straight against Indianapolis.

Manning was 29 of 39 for 229 yards with no interceptions for the second straight game.

Indy also ended Maurice Jones-Drew's streak of consecutive 100-yard games at six. He carried 15 times for 46 yards, a career low against Indy.

Ravens 30, Saints 24

In Baltimore, Maryland, Ray Rice ran for 153 yards and scored two touchdowns, and Baltimore ended New Orleans' six-game winning streak.

The Ravens (10-4) won by reviving their lagging running game and managing to hold onto a fourth-quarter lead.

Coming into the game, Rice hadn't had a run of more than 30 yards and reached the 100-yard mark only once. He had a 50-yard run in the fourth quarter and finished with his biggest rushing total since a 154-yard game last year against Cleveland.

Rice scored on a 10-yard run and caught a 17-yard pass from Joe Flacco.

Bills 17, Dolphins 14

In Miami, Ryan Fitzpatrick threw two touchdown passes and the resurgent Bills eliminated the Dolphins from playoff contention.

Buffalo looked woeful in a season-opening loss at home against Miami, but that was before Fitzpatrick took over at quarterback. He went 16 for 26 for 223 yards in the rematch.

The Dolphins, who have won only once in Miami this season, again sputtered on offense. Chad Henne threw a costly interception and kicker Dan Carpenter went 0 for 4, missing from 48, 61, 53 and 48 yards.

Buffalo (4-10) won for the fourth time in six games after starting 0-8.

Bengals 19, Browns 17

In Cincinnati, Ohio, Cedric Benson ran for a season-high 150 yards and a touchdown, and Cincinnati ended a 10-game losing streak that matched the longest in franchise history.

The Bengals (3-11) hadn't won since Sept. 26.

Cincinnati took a straight-ahead approach against the Browns (5-9), who clinched their 10th losing record in 12 years since returning as an expansion team. The Browns got a TD pass from rookie Colt McCoy on a trick play and another on a botched Bengals coverage with 2:13 to go.



Philadelphia Eagles' DeSean Jackson celebrates a touchdown on a punt return at the end of an NFL football game against the New York Giants at New Meadowlands Stadium, Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Lions 23, Buccaneers 20 OT

In Tampa, Florida, Dave Rayner's third field goal, a 34-yarder with 9:51 left in overtime allowed Detroit to end the longest road losing streak in NFL history at 26 games.

Rayner kicked a 28-yarder as time expired in regulation to force the extra period. The Lions took the overtime kickoff and drove 63 yards—covering most of the distance on two big runs and a 12-yard reception by Calvin Johnson on third-and-8—to set up the game-winner.

The Lions (4-10) won on the road for the first time since Oct. 28, 2007, when they won 16-7 at Chicago.

The Bucs (8-6) kicked two fourth-quarter field goals to go ahead 20-17 with 1:39 remaining left in regulation.

Panthers 19, Cardinals 12

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Jimmy Clausen outplayed John Skelton in a matchup of rookie quarterbacks, John Kasay kicked four field goals, and Carolina snapped a seven-game losing streak.

Clausen threw only his second TD pass of the season in his first win in eight starts. Jonathan Stewart rushed for 137 yards and the Panthers (2-12) gave coach John Fox a win in likely his final home game.

Fox, in the final year of his contract, also ensured a winning regular-season record in Carolina as he improved to 73-69 in a rare bright spot amid a miserable year.

Titans 31, Texans 17

In Nashville, Tennessee, Kerry Collins threw for

two touchdowns and 237 yards and Chris Johnson ran for a TD and 130 yards as Tennessee snapped a six-game losing streak.

With the win and Indianapolis downing Jacksonville 34-24, the Titans (6-8) keep their slim playoff hopes alive.

The Texans (5-9) have lost seven of their last eight.

Cowboys 33, Redskins 30

In Arlington, Texas, David Buehler made a 39-yard field goal with 50 seconds left, giving Dallas a win that was a lot tougher than it had to be.

The Cowboys led 27-7 early in the third quarter and 30-14 at the start of the fourth. They could have broken the game open even wider but got only field goals out of drives that reached the 20, 2 and 3, and failed to score on drives that reached the 1 and 18.

By pulling it out, Dallas improved to 4-2 under interim coach Jason Garrett, guaranteeing no worse than a break-even finish in his tenure. The Cowboys (5-8) and Redskins (5-8) are tied for third place in the NFC East.

Washington lost its fourth straight and sixth in the last seven. New starting quarterback Rex Grossman—replacing Donovan McNabb—tied his career-high with four touchdown passes, but the game ended with him throwing an interception.

Chiefs 17, Rams 13

In St. Louis, Missouri, Matt Cassel returned to the lineup 11 days after an emergency appen-

dectomy and threw a touchdown pass in leading Kansas City.

Jamaal Charles scored on a short run and helped clinch it with a late 80-yard burst for the Chiefs (9-5), who retained a one-game lead over the Chargers in the AFC West.

Kansas City managed 67 yards in a 31-0 loss at San Diego last week with backup Brodie Croyle starting, and ended a seven-quarter scoreless drought on Cassel's 2-yard TD pass to Leonard Pope midway through the second quarter.

Thomas Jones became the NFL's 25th player to rush for 10,000 yards, and scored the final touchdown on a 2-yard run with 3:26 to go, one play after Ron Bartell ran down Charles just shy of the goal line.

Jets 22, Steelers 17

In Pittsburgh, Mark Sanchez stood up to the pressure created by the Steelers' defense and his team's two-game losing streak, scrambling for the Jets' first offensive touchdown in 12 quarters and leading a decisive field-goal drive as New York beat Pittsburgh.

Despite losing, the Steelers (10-4) were told by the NFL nearly an hour after the game ended that they secured a playoff spot via a series of complicated strength-of-schedule tiebreakers.

Pittsburgh also owns the division tiebreaker and will beat out Baltimore (10-4) for the AFC North title if it defeats Carolina on Thursday and Cleveland on Jan. 2.

The Jets (10-4) held on to win even as Ben Roethlisberger drove the Steelers from their own 8 to the Jets 10 in the final 2:08, only to throw incomplete on the game's final two plays.

Raiders 39, Broncos 23

In Oakland, California, Jason Campbell threw a 73-yard touchdown pass to Marcel Reece and Jacoby Ford scored on a 71-yard run to help Oakland overcome Tim Tebow's two long touchdowns in his first career start and beat Denver.

Michael Bush added two short touchdown runs to keep the Raiders (7-7) in the hunt for a playoff berth for at least one more week.

Oakland trails Kansas City by two games in the AFC West and will need to win the final two games and get help in order to win the division.

The Broncos (3-11) have long been eliminated from the playoff chase, having lost nine of 10 games to tie the franchise record for losses in a season.

Falcons 34, Seahawks 18

In Seattle, Washington, Matt Ryan threw for 174 yards and three touchdowns, Jonathan Babineaux recovered a fumble for a touchdown and Atlanta wrapped up an NFC playoff spot with a win over Seattle.

The Falcons (12-2) won their eighth straight game, their longest winning streak since the 1998 Super Bowl season. Ryan had touchdown throws of 3 yards to Jason Snelling, 24 to Michael Jenkins and 5 to Roddy White, who finished with seven catches.

Jamaal Anderson forced a fumble by Seattle QB Matt Hasselbeck in the end zone on the first offensive play of the second half for the Seahawks (6-8). Anderson appeared to get away with a facemask penalty on the play, but Babineaux came out of the scrum with the TD.

Patriots 31, Packers 27

In Foxborough, Mass., Dan Connolly rumbled 71 yards with what is believed to be the longest kickoff return by an offensive lineman in NFL history, and Tom Brady threw two touchdown passes and New England edged Green Bay for its sixth straight win.

The Patriots, who had outscored their previous two opponents 81-10, had their hands full even with Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers missing the game with a concussion. Matt Flynn threw his first three pro touchdown passes in his place.

The game went down to the final play when Flynn, with the ball at the Patriots 15-yard line, lost it and Vince Wilfork recovered for New England (12-2).

Pierce stars in Boston win over Indiana



BOSTON (AP)—Paul Pierce had his seventh career triple-double and Boston extended its winning streak to 13 games by holding off the Indiana Pacers 99-88 on Sunday.

Pierce finished with 18 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds for his first triple-double since 2006, and the Celtics got a boost from the return of Shaquille O'Neal, who had 11 points after missing four straight games with a sore right calf.

Ray Allen added 18 points, scoring 12 in the second half, and Kevin Garnett finished with nine points and nine rebounds for the Celtics, who improved to 12-1 at home.

Danny Granger led Indiana with 18 points. Roy Hibbert added 17 points and 14 rebounds for the pesky Pacers, who hung with the Celtics until the final few minutes.

The Pacers made just 34 of 96 shots, but only had 13 turnovers to Boston's 18 and were almost able to keep up with the bigger Celtics in rebounding.

Lakers 120, Raptors 110

In Toronto, Kobe Bryant scored 20 points, Pau Gasol had 19 and the Los Angeles Lakers won their fifth straight game.

Andrew Bynum had 16 points and Shannon Brown 14 for the Lakers, who finished a seven-game road trip at 6-1 and have won eight of nine overall.

Matt Barnes had 12 and Lamar Odom 11 for the Lakers, who have won seven of eight against the Raptors.

Los Angeles is 11-5 away from home, the most road wins in the NBA.

Bryant started despite a sprained right pinky that he hurt in the opening quarter of Friday's win at Philadelphia.

Toronto's Linas Kleiza matched his season-high with 26 points and had 10 rebounds. DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points while Jose Calderon had 20 points and 12 assists.

Nets 89, Hawks 82

In Newark, New Jersey, Devin Harris had 22 points and eight assists, and Brook Lopez added 16 points.

It marked the second straight time that the Nets (8-20) beat Atlanta (17-12) in Newark this season, having earned a 107-101 overtime victory Nov. 23.

The Nets went in front early in the fourth quarter and never relinquished the lead, with Lopez scoring six of his points in the final period.

Stephen Graham scored 10 points and Troy Murphy added nine, both season highs, and newly acquired Sasha Vujacic had 10 points off the bench.

Mike Bibby scored 19 points, and Al Horford and Josh Smith added 15 apiece for the Hawks, who lost for the fourth time in six games.



Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce drives the ball against the Indiana Pacers defense during the first half of their NBA basketball game in Boston, Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010. AP

Pistons 111, Hornets 108, OT

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Will Bynum made a driving layup with 7.4 seconds left in overtime.

Detroit trailed by one after a pair of free throws by David West with 15.0 seconds remaining. After a brief scramble, Bynum picked up the ball in the backcourt and went straight to the basket, getting a hard pick from Jason Maxiell along the way and scoring while drawing a foul.

Bynum missed the free throw, and New Orleans called a timeout, but Maxiell tipped away the inbound pass, outfought West for the ball and dunked with 0.5 seconds remaining.

The Pistons were without guards Richard Hamilton and Rodney Stuckey, who sat out with an upset stomach and a sore left big toe.

Rockets 102, Kings 93

In Sacramento, California, Kevin Martin scored 22 points and Houston won for the fourth time in five games.

The Rockets won for only the fourth time this year on the road.

DeMarcus Cousins had 19 points, eight rebounds and four blocks for the Kings, who lost their fifth straight and 19th of 21 games.

Francisco Garcia and Tyreke Evans scored 14 points each and Carl Landry had 11 for the Kings. Sacramento is 3-11 at home this season and has the NBA's worst record at 5-20.

Luis Scola had 17 points and nine rebounds and Kyle Lowry added 13 points and seven assists for Houston, which outscored the Kings 23-12 in the fourth quarter.

Suns 113, Thunder 110

In Oklahoma City, Grant Hill scored a season-high 30 points and had 11 rebounds, Steve Nash added 20 points and 10 assists and short-handed Phoenix snapped Oklahoma City's five-game winning streak.

Phoenix played while waiting for trade acquisitions Vince Carter, Marcin Gortat and Mickael Pietrus to join the team but found a way to edge past the Thunder down the stretch.

The Suns let a 13-point lead slip away but were able to recover and take the lead for good on Robin Lopez's right-handed dunk with 6:45 left. Oklahoma City got within a point in the final 7 seconds, but never got the chance to take the lead as the teams traded foul shots.

Kevin Durant led the Thunder with 28 points, and Russell Westbrook and Jeff Green scored 19 apiece.

Brewers go all in with trade for Royals' Greinke



M I L - WAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee

Brewers are going all in for 2011, acquiring former Cy Young winner Zack Greinke in a trade Sunday with the Kansas City Royals.

The Royals acquired shortstop Alcides Escobar, outfielder Lorenzo Cain and right-handed pitching prospects Jake Odorizzi and Jeremy Jeffress from the Brewers in exchange for Greinke, shortstop Yuniesky Betancourt and cash considerations.

"Zack Greinke is one of the top young pitchers in the game today," Brewers general manager Doug Melvin said in a statement. "We are very excited to add him to our new rotation."

"Zack brings great physical skills and athleticism to the team and is an outstanding competitor. This trade is a credit to our scouting and player development staff as their hard work and judgment provided us the talented prospects that Kansas City will be receiving. I also appreciate the support of ownership in making this deal."

Milwaukee outfielder Corey Hart said the move, along with a previous trade for starter Shaun Marcum, makes the Brewers a solid contender.

"We were getting better with Marcum, now Greinke," Hart said in a text message to The Associated Press. "Brewers are for real!"

Brewers slugger Ryan Braun said the deal was "amazing" in a separate text message.

"Don't really know him much yet but really looking forward to getting to know him!" he said.

Royals general manager Dayton Moore said the deal made sense for Kansas City because the young players they acquired from Milwaukee fit into what is expected to be a wave of promising young players coming up through their system. Third baseman Mike Moustakas and first baseman Eric Hosmer could join the big league club this year.

"We expect to be competitive next year," Moore said. "We're still working to improve our baseball team."

Moore indicated it took some direct talks between he and Greinke before the pitcher agreed to waive the no-trade clause in his contract.

"He was very much open to it at the end of the day," Moore said.

Greinke was 10-14 with a 4.17 ERA for the Royals last season. It was a step back from his standout 2009 season, when he went 16-8 with a 2.16 ERA and won the Cy Young award.

There are two years left on the four-year, \$38 million contract he signed with the Royals in January 2009. He is due \$13.5 million each of the final two seasons, although the Brewers got an undisclosed amount of cash back from the Royals as part of the deal.

Greinke is 60-67 with a 3.82

ERA in six-plus seasons with the Royals. He sat out most of the 2006 season because of an anxiety disorder and considered quitting baseball.

"A big part of my heart will always pull for Zack," Moore said. "What he overcame, the success he had here, to the point it's not easy to make these types of deals. You would prefer to have him here and sign him long-term but it just wasn't something we could do."

Moore expects Greinke to thrive in the National League.

"This guy's one of the best fielding pitchers in the game," Moore said. "You can't bunt on him. He holds runners. He's a studier. I think he's going to do terrific."

Reports of a potential deal sending Greinke to Milwaukee surfaced online late Saturday.

With the deal, the Brewers have taken two big steps to bolster their starting rotation—the team's main weak spot in back-to-back disappointing seasons. Earlier this month, Milwaukee made a trade with Toronto to obtain Marcum for highly regarded infield prospect Brett Lawrie.

It's an indication the Brewers are serious about making a play-off run in 2011—presumably making it far less likely that the team would trade first baseman Prince Fielder, who can become a free agent at the end of the season and has been the subject of widespread trade speculation.

Melvin also went all-in in 2008 with a trade for CC Sabathia, who led the team to the playoffs. With the acquisition of Greinke, the Brewers' starting staff is closer to par with Philadelphia and San Francisco in the National League.

This month's deals for starting pitching have cost Milwaukee promising young prospects who might have figured prominently in its future—and could help the Royals' rebuilding effort.

Escobar was the Brewers' primary shortstop last season but struggled at the plate, batting .235 with 41 RBIs. Cain played 43 games for the Brewers last season, batting .306 with 13 RBIs.

Jeffress made 10 appearances for the Brewers last season, going 1-0 with a 2.70 ERA. He has been suspended twice under baseball's drug policy.

Odorizzi was considered the Brewers' top minor league pitching prospect, and agent Jason Wood said the team tried "very hard" to keep his client out of the deal.

"You know what? It's a nice compliment that the Royals thought highly enough of Jake to include him in the deal," Wood said. "It's quite flattering and Jake takes it as a compliment."

"I think the Royals have a quality player and person," Wood said. "Zack Greinke is a Cy Young winner who had a phenomenal year."

AG's Pilgro wins SEDA Inter-Gov't Bud Light Lime Cup

 AG's Pilgro defeated PSS Na'Gupu, 8-5, in last Friday's Saipan Electronic Dart Association Second Inter-Government Dart League Bud-Light Lime Cup championship round held at Naked Fish Bar & Grill.

Buddies Bar & Grill's AG's Pilgro lost the first partners 501 game to start the match, but regrouped to take the second contest.

Pilgro's Jayson John, Toi Celis, and Lionel Sanchez then each won a singles wild and crazy cricket match to pull



AG's Pilgro, seen here in a file photo, defeated PSS Na'Gupu, 8-5, in last Friday's Second SEDA Inter-Gov Bud Light Lime Cup championship round at Naked Fish Bar & Grill.

their team ahead, 4-2, and Pilgro went on to sweep both partners 701 games to put the squeeze on their rivals, 6-2.

TWIN

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straight sets in her title game against Pacific Oceania teammate Ayana Rengiil of Palau, 6-3, 6-3.

It was Rastguiy's second victory in a row against the much taller Rengiil, as the diminutive CNMI netter also beat the Palauan bet during the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament. Rengiil marched into the finals after crushing another Pacific Oceania player—Nadine Del Carmen of Guam—in two sets, 6-1, 6-0.

In the doubles event, Rastguiy teamed up with Del Carmen and they

won in the finals against Rengiil and New Zealand's Ariana Albert, 6-1, 6-3.

The Rastguiy-Del Carmen duo started its doubles bid with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over McCormack and Daisy Wilson. Then in the semifinals, the top-seeded team defeated Kane and Helen McClean, 6-0, 6-2.

Besides the U12 events in Gisborne, Rastguiy also joined the U14 division and was only two steps short of recording her second singles win in New Zealand.

She made it to the semifinals of the girls U14 division after beating Darian Taylor, 6-1, 6-0, and Parker, 6-1, 6-1. However Rastguiy fell short of advancing

to the finals after losing to eventual champion and second seed Harriet Dakis Rofe in the semis, 6-2, 6-1.

In the U14 doubles, Rastguiy joined forces with Rengiil and they marched into the finals before bowing to Rofe and Samantha Lasslet, 6-4, 7-5. Before their finals defeat, Rastguiy and Rengiil won over Marizka Oberhoizer and Gyllian Tael, 6-2, 6-2, to move to the semis where they prevailed against Madison Sanders and Georgie Urquhart, 9-4.

With Rastguiy winning two events in Gisborne, she and her teammates continued to draw praises from CNMI coach Jeff Race.

BOXING

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before the start of the third round.

After the fight, Adelbai thanked the fans and announced that he is taking a break from fighting for a while to spend more time with his family.

Team Chaos' Joy Inais Fred made light work of the Beat Boys' Rolland "Sharky" Kapileo in his MMA debut, winning by tap out at 1:15 of the first round.

The fighters danced around at first, but as soon as Fred got a hold of Sharky, he wasted no time taking his back to choke him out.

Another newcomer, Milo "Alabama" Lassiter won his super-heavyweight MMA debut over Kyle "Taliban Terror" Kaipat just 19 seconds after the first bell. The super-heavyweight bout was expected to be one of the most anticipated fights on the card, but in reality it fizzed out like a dud.

Lassiter went right at Kaipat and caught him with a pair of hard strikes to the chin. Kaipat responded with a clinch attempt, but Lassiter sprawled well and ended up on top as both fighters went to the ground.

Once on the ground, Lassiter took Kaipat's back. During the transition, Kaipat suffered what appeared to be a shoulder injury that caused the abrupt ending.

Leonard "Skrapz" Sablan won his debut K-1 kickboxing match over fellow independent fighter Ken Taitano at 2:42 of the first round. Sablan caught Taitano with a spinning back fist that caused him to concede victory.

Zalaka's Jacob Ilo came out the victor of his K-1 match over Predator Combat Team's "Tabi" Jay Muna at 2:52 into the second round. Muna caught a kick to the ribs that dropped him to his knees

and was unable to continue.

Zeng Zung's Regino Mundo put down Zalaka's newcomer Aaron "Luvs You" Tomokane in one round of K-1 action where few kicks were thrown in the bout.

Mundo looked good early and saved some energy to unload a flurry of shots right at the bell. Tomokane did not step to the line for a second round.

Independent fighter, Danny "The Warrior" Santos won his MMA debut over Team Stubby's John "The Profit" Moses after one round of action. Moses caught an early takedown sweep and established side control that enabled him to dish out some nice left-handed strikes.

Moses managed to escape, but the fighters remained tangled up in a clinch for the remainder of the round. After the first round it went to the judges and Santos was awarded the decision.

Other notables of the event included

an appearance by Marianas Elite's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial. Fitial is the No. 1 contender for Guam's Pacific Xtreme Combat's heavyweight title.

"I'm going to bring that championship belt back to Saipan," said Fitial during an interview at the center of the octagon in between the action.

In addition, special guest referee Frank "The Crank" Camacho also announced that he plans on getting back into the cage as a fighter some time next year.

This past year the World Champion Brazilian Jiu Jitsu student achieved both his blue and purple belt.

"I think it is a good idea for me to get back in the cage and make sure I don't get rusty. I want to test my skills and see how much I have improved as result of all the training and formal competitions I've invested in," said Camacho after the event.

TEAMS

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Maratita. The Ol'Aces are also hoping to bring back Abong Camacho next year.

Last year's pennant champion X-Terminators (now Mobil) will still have the two-guard combination of Jun Estolas and Pando Muleta and added gunner Bon Tamayo and high-leaping forward Larry Sharry to its roster. Also on the team is big men Jorge De Guzman and swingman Leo Factor.

The Marvin Deocares-coached Mobil swept the regular season last season, but failed to advance to the finals after losing to Prospects in the semis. The Ol'Aces

eliminated Noni Saipan in the other semis pairing to make it to the finals.

Noni Saipan will be missing the second UBA caging, but several of its players will be suiting up for Satbahi of coach Marlon Sison. The debuting Satbahi will have the explosive Wowie Abuel leading its roster.

Another newcomer—IP&E Konflikt—will have a beefed up roster when the UBA caging kicks off in January next year. IP&E Konflikt will have the core of the team that ruled the 2010 UFO caging. The list includes Elmer Esdreton, Edsel Mendoza, and Joemary Tumaquip. Boosting coach Norman del Rosario's roster are former Noni Saipan

players Kae Bernardo and Ivan De Vero and mobile big man Edwin Santos.

Also strengthening their roster are the Hoopaholics, who will have the returning Jawn Joyner and former Mobil player Kelvin Fitial. The two big men will team up with prolific scorer Dave Sablan, Mel Manibusan, John Sablan, James Villacrusis, Gus Palacios, and Ponce Rasa. Jerry Diaz will be Hoopaholics coach.

Not to be outdone is the NMC Proa of coach Rufino Aguon, who will lean on former CNMI National Team players. Aguon's wards include Pete Iguel, Peter Mendiola, Jack Lizama, Dan Barcinas, Joe Villacrusis, and Quincy Johnson.

UBA president James Lee sees a

recovered and won the first partners regular cricket match to secure the automatic team victory.

AG's Pilgro is made up of Lionel and Venetia Sanchez, Vince and Angela Rosario, Jayson John, Toi Celis, Glenn Camacho, and Jay C. Sablan.

Coming into the Bud Cup event AG's Pilgro was ranked second out of nine teams in the league standings. They went through the first, third, and fourth seeds before meeting six-ranked Na'Gupu in the finals; of those four matches, three were played on the road.

(Walter Sutherland)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	22	4	.846	—
New York	16	12	.571	7
Philadelphia	11	16	.407	11 1/2
Toronto	10	18	.357	13
New Jersey	8	20	.286	15

Southeast Division				
Miami	21	8	.724	—
Orlando	16	10	.615	3 1/2
Atlanta	17	12	.586	4
Charlotte	9	17	.346	10 1/2
Washington	6	19	.240	13

Central Division				
Chicago	16	9	.640	—
Indiana	12	14	.462	4 1/2
Milwaukee	10	15	.400	6
Detroit	9	19	.321	8 1/2
Cleveland	8	19	.296	9

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
San Antonio	23	3	.885	—
Dallas	21	5	.808	2
New Orleans	16	11	.593	7 1/2
Houston	12	15	.444	11 1/2
Memphis	12	16	.429	12

Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	19	9	.679	—
Utah	19	9	.679	—
Denver	16	10	.615	2
Portland	14	14	.500	5
Minnesota	6	22	.214	13

Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	21	7	.750	—
Phoenix	13	13	.500	7
Golden State	9	17	.346	11
L.A. Clippers	7	21	.250	14
Sacramento	5	20	.200	14 1/2

Yesterday's Results

Boston 99, Indiana 88
New Jersey 89, Atlanta 82
L.A. Lakers 120, Toronto 110
Houston 102, Sacramento 93
Detroit 111, New Orleans 108, OT
Phoenix 113, Oklahoma City 110

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New England	12	2	0	.857	446	303
N.Y. Jets	10	4	0	.714	295	259
Miami	7	7	0	.500	239	261
Buffalo	4	10	0	.286	273	353

South						
Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571	381	342
Jacksonville	8	6	0	.571	319	365
Tennessee	6	8	0	.429	322	282
Houston	5	9	0	.357	333	386

North						
x-Pittsburgh	10	4	0	.714	307	220
Baltimore	10	4	0	.714	324	253
Cleveland	5	9	0	.357	252	271
Cincinnati	3	11	0	.214	281	362

West						
Kansas City	9	5	0	.643	322	281
San Diego	8	6	0	.571	388	260
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	353	330
Denver	3	11	0	.214	292	415

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
Philadelphia	10	4	0	.714	412	339
N.Y. Giants	9	5	0	.643	360	288
Washington	5	9	0	.357	268	343
Dallas	5	9	0	.357	354	396

South						
x-Atlanta	12	2	0	.857	369	261
New Orleans	10	4	0	.714	354	270
Tampa Bay	8	6	0	.571	280	290
Carolina	2	12	0	.143	183	350

North						
Chicago	9	4	0	.692	253	228
Green Bay	8	6	0	.571	333	220
Minnesota	5	8	0	.385	230	274
Detroit	4	10	0	.286	308	329

West						
St. Louis	6	8	0	.429	258	295
Seattle	6	8	0	.429	279	363
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	250	314
Arizona	4	10	0	.286	255	370

x-clinched playoff spot

Yesterday's Games

Kansas City 27, St. Louis 13
Dallas 33, Washington 30
Tennessee 31, Houston 17
Carolina 19, Arizona 12
Philadelphia 38, N.Y. Giants 31
Detroit 23, Tampa Bay 20, OT
Cincinnati 19, Cleveland 17
Buffalo 17, Miami 14
Indianapolis 34, Jacksonville 24
Baltimore 30, New Orleans 24
Atlanta 34, Seattle 18
Oakland 39, Denver 23
N.Y. Jets 22, Pittsburgh 17
New England 31, Green Bay 27

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

XTERRA

From Page 28

in the 2011 XTERRA America Tour, excluding XTERRA World Championships in Maui, Hawaii in October.

After XTERRA Saipan, two more events will take place in March with Guam XTERRA set for March 26 in Piti, Guam, and XTERRA REAL on March 27 at Granite Bay, California.

In April, five races will be held, including two regional events—XTERRA West Championship on April 10 at Lake Las Vegas in Nevada and XTERRA Southern Central Championship on April 17 in Waco, Texas.

The first race in April will be the

tor Terra in Ruston, Los Angeles and XTERRA King of the Hill in Lebanon, New Jersey on May 15, and XTERRA Smith Lake on May 29 in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

XTERRA Tour will have the second most events in June with 13. Leading the list is XTERRA East Championship in Richmond, Virginia, on June 12. The 12 other events will take place in New Mexico, Indiana, North Carolina, Arizona, Oregon, Michigan, Tennessee, Texas, California, and North Dakota.

XTERRA Tour's calendar will then be fully booked in July with 16 events, including the XTERRA Mountain Championship in Beaver Creek, Colorado, on July 16. Other events will be

held in North Carolina, Ohio, Maryland, Washington, New York, Arkansas, Indiana, Montana, Pennsylvania, Florida, Texas, Iowa, Vermont, and South Dakota.

In August, XTERRA Tour will start with XTERRA Indian Peaks on Aug. 6 in Nederland, Colorado and end with XTERRA Lake Tahoe in Nevada on Aug. 27. Arkansas, Washington, California, New Hampshire, Nebraska, Indiana, Oregon, Illinois, Idaho, and Virginia will host the remaining events in August.

Only one race is set for September with XTERRA USA Championship scheduled for Sept. 24 in Ogden/Snowbasin, Utah.

2010 NMIVA Prince and Princess of the Beach



A youth male player goes for a kill.



A player hustles for the ball, while her teammate looks on.

PHOTOS by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A youth player in action during the elimination round of the one-day tournament.



Phalai Frink serves.



A player practices his serve before the game.



Samantha Calvo has all eyes on the ball.



Joemil Lisua dives for the ball.



Andres Halaby leans forward to return the ball.



A participant in the 2010 NMIVA Prince and Princess of the Beach bends for a return during the elimination game at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts.



Pierce stars in
Boston win over
Indiana

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Brady, Patriots
pound Bears,
36-7

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Twin wins for Negahr in NZ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After falling short in her debut in New Zealand, CNMI junior tennis player Negahr Rastguiy came back smoking, winning both the doubles and singles crowns in the U12 division of the 2010 Poverty Bay East Coast Junior Open last week.

Rastguiy finished only second in her debut tournament in New Zealand—the 2010 Waikato Junior Open at the Waikato Tennis Centre in Hamilton—and one day after her runner-up wins both in the singles and doubles events, she traveled to Gisborne for her second tournament and this time placed on top of the field.



The 12-year-old netter was seeded first in the Gisborne tournament and drew a bye in the upper half of the 32-player draw. Her first assignment in Poverty Bay was Muta Siutula and the CNMI junior netter got off to an easy cruise in Round 2 with a 6-0, 6-0 victory.

In the quarterfinals, Rastguiy was paired against Zara Parker and again she nailed a straight sets win, 6-0, 6-2, to advance to the semis. Parker earned the right to face the CNMI bet after a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Jessica Lesa.

In the Final Four round, the top-seeded Rastguiy was pitted against the fourth-ranked Olivia McCormack. The New Zealand junior netter came off a hard-earned 4-6, 6-3, 10-5 quarterfinals win over Annelise Kane, but when it was time for her to face Rastguiy in the semis, the former seemed like a lost lamb. Rastguiy toyed with McCormack and won easily, 6-1, 6-3.

Rastguiy did not drop a single set in the U12 division of the Gisborne tournament, as she also prevailed in

See TWIN on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Negahr Rastguiy, seen here serving in a tournament in Guam, won the U12 singles and doubles event in the 2010 Poverty Bay East Coast Junior Open in Gisborne, New Zealand.



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Peter "ASU" Castro thanks a rewed up crowd for their support during his boxing bout in last Saturday's Trench Tech Fan Appreciation Night event at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Slade "The Rage" Adelbai showed his soft side when he announced at last Saturday's Trench Tech Fan Appreciation Night that he is taking a break from fighting next year to spend more quality with his family.

Boxing vet delights FAN crowd

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan's Peter "ASU" Castro laced up his boxing gloves for the first time since 2005 to ignite fans in what easily was one of the most exciting bouts of Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Night held last Saturday at the Trench Tech Gym.

Castro's opponent, Alvin "The Bullet" Buekis only made it through one round before calling it quits.

Castro put on a clinic with

TRENCH TECH

vicious body blows, more experienced footwork tactics, and well-calculated jabs to work his opponent around the cage at will.

A veteran boxer who was competing before the mixed martial arts explosion even took place in the CNMI, Castro's bout was hands down the crowd favorite of the night.

In another headliner match,

Trench Tech's Slade "The Rage" Adelbai defeated South Side Syndicates' Rob "Pitbull" Palacios in two rounds of action.

Adelbai, who improved to 10 wins with three loses, got in some powerful lower leg kicks and established himself as the aggressor during the fight.

Even though Palacios gave the Palauan Phenom a nice cut on his right eye and avoided being laid out on his back for the most part, Adelbai won the fight after Palacios bowed out

See BOXING on Page 26

Teams beef up rosters for UBA caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Prospects will be up for a tough title defense, as the six other teams competing in the 2nd Unified Basketball Association Men's League have strengthened their rosters in time for next year's competition.

Prospect swept the Ol'Aces in a short best-of-three title series during the inaugural UBA caging and will be gunning for back-to-back championships sans last season's Finals MVP Bonbon Cadagat, Quincy Johnson, and Ryan Sanciango. Both Cadagat and Sanciango had left the island, while Johnson is playing for another team in the second season of the UBA men's league.

Prospects will only have holdovers Perry Inos, Jeff Pagarao, Alex Lauron, Errol Peredo, and Darwin Barbo along with a bunch of newcomers.

Last year's finalists Ol'Aces will be back with its usual veteran cast and will add more youth players to their roster. Returning for the Ol'Aces are player-coach Elias Rangamar, Peter Camacho, Romeo Iginoef, Tyrone Omar, and Jose Tumaquip. Joining them are Rotary youth players Marvin Rabauliman, Trevor Ogomoro, and Juan

See TEAMS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ol'Aces' Dan Barcinas, center, and Gabriel White, left, watch Prospects' Bonbon Cadagat glide for a shot during Game 2 of their title series in last season's UBA men's caging at the Garapan Basketball Court.

XTERRA Saipan to kick off 2011 America Tour

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The tentative schedule of events for the 2011 XTERRA America Tour has XTERRA Saipan Championship kicking off the year

of off-road triathlon races.

The Crown Jewel of the XTERRA Tour is scheduled on March 12 and is expected to draw returning champions Sam Gardner of the United Kingdom and Renata Bucher of Switzerland.

Gardner completed this year's 1.5-kilometer swim, 30-km mountain bike race, and

12-km trail run in three hours, 34 minutes, and three seconds, crushing the 3:34:32 mark he posted when he won the 2009 XTERRA Championship. Bucher notched her sixth XTERRA Saipan Championship title after timing in at 2:58:19.

Besides XTERRA Saipan, 58 other events are scheduled

See XTERRA on Page 26